

MARVEL

ROSS • KRUEGER • WELL-BEE

WARRIORS



MARVELS



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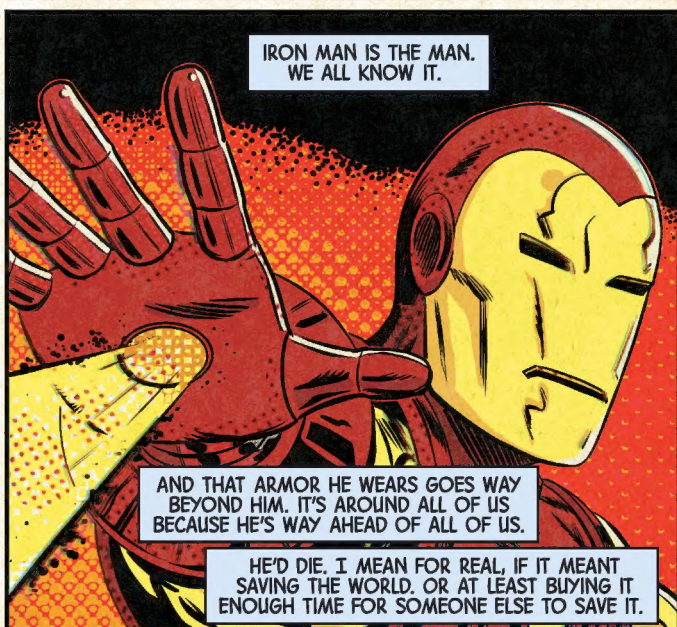
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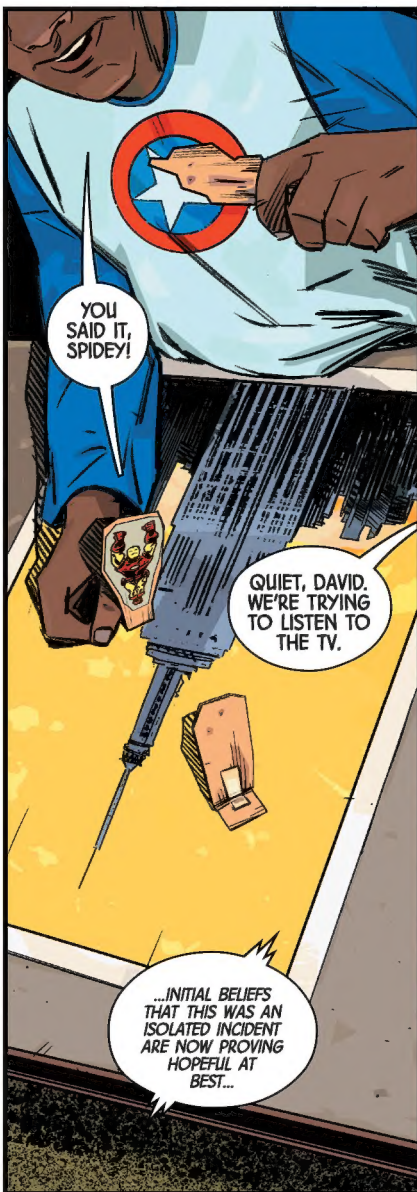
ONE







CAP!
SHELL-HEAD!
LET'S SHOW THESE
WANNABE BAD
GUYS WHAT IT'S LIKE
TO FACE A REAL
NEW YORKER!



YOU
SAID IT,
SPIDEY!

QUIET, DAVID.
WE'RE TRYING
TO LISTEN TO
THE TV.

...INITIAL BELIEFS
THAT THIS WAS AN
ISOLATED INCIDENT
ARE NOW PROVING
HOPEFUL AT
BEST...



...THERE IS
NOTHING WE PUT
OUR MINDS TO THAT
WE CANNOT FIX. ALL
IT TAKES IS...WELL...
US.

...THE FIRST
OF THOSE TO
BE COVERED BY
THE SCABBING ARE
REPORTING A LOSS
OF MOBILITY...



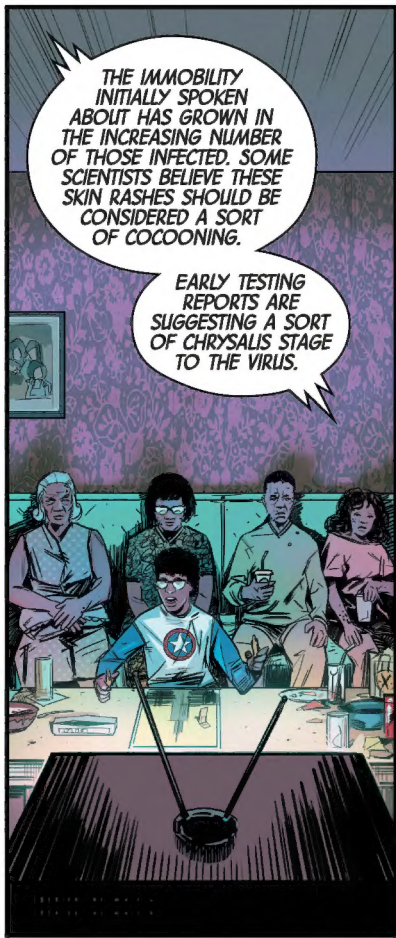
RIGHT, IRON
MAN. WE JUST
NEED TO STAY
UNITED.

I'M NOT
GOING TO
ASK YOU
AGAIN,
DAVID.

I THINK
YOU MEAN
ASSEMBLED!

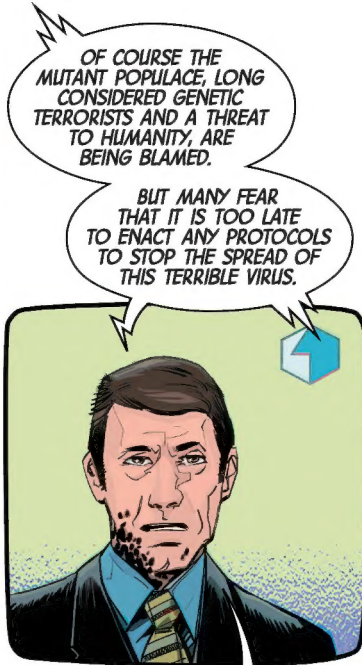
...INCIDENTS
OF THIS SCABBING
ARE BEING REPORTED
AROUND THE WORLD. WHILE
IT IS UNKNOWN IF THE VIRUS
IS AIRBORNE OR BEING
SPREAD IN SOME
OTHER WAY...

...WORLD
AUTHORITIES
ARE ENCOURAGING THEIR
CITIZENS TO FILTER THEIR
WATER AND TO REMAIN
INDOORS...



THE IMMOBILITY INITIALLY SPOKEN ABOUT HAS GROWN IN THE INCREASING NUMBER OF THOSE INFECTED. SOME SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THESE SKIN RASHES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A SORT OF COCOONING.

EARLY TESTING REPORTS ARE SUGGESTING A SORT OF CHRYSALIS STAGE TO THE VIRUS.



OF COURSE THE MUTANT POPULACE, LONG CONSIDERED GENETIC TERRORISTS AND A THREAT TO HUMANITY, ARE BEING BLAMED.

BUT MANY FEAR THAT IT IS TOO LATE TO ENACT ANY PROTOCOLS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THIS TERRIBLE VIRUS.

THOSE WHO HAVE EMERGED FROM THEIR COCOONS CONFIRM THE BELIEF THAT INDEED THIS IS A MUTANT VIRUS.



ALONG WITH CHANGES IN APPEARANCE THERE APPEAR TO BE ABILITIES THAT CAN ONLY BE DEFINED AS EXTRA-HUMAN. "POWERS" SO TO SPEAK.

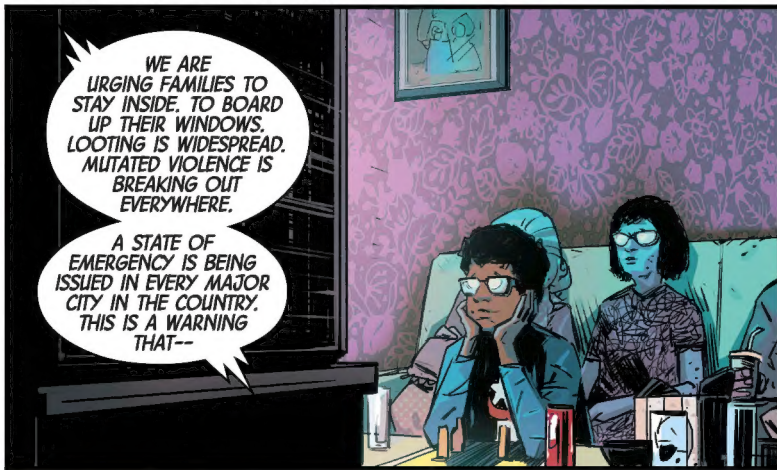
IT'S THE END TIMES. I KNOW IT.

NOT NOW, MOM.



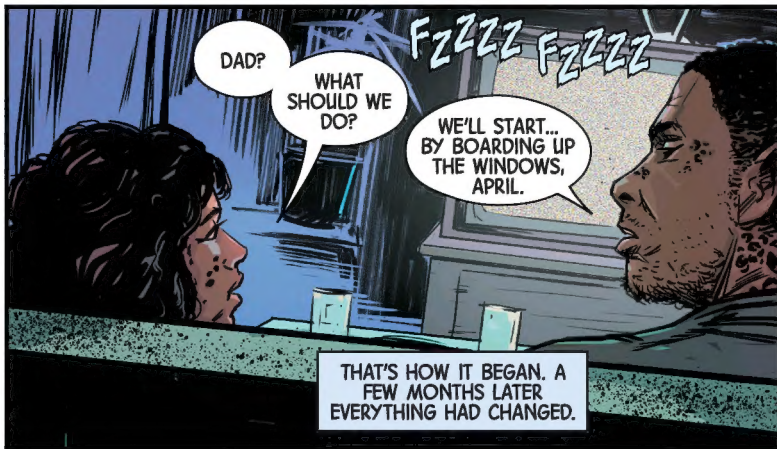
POWERS? WE'RE GETTING SUPER-POWERS?

QUIET, DAVID.



WE ARE URGING FAMILIES TO STAY INSIDE. TO BOARD UP THEIR WINDOWS. LOOTING IS WIDESPREAD. MUTATED VIOLENCE IS BREAKING OUT EVERYWHERE.

A STATE OF EMERGENCY IS BEING ISSUED IN EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE COUNTRY. THIS IS A WARNING THAT--



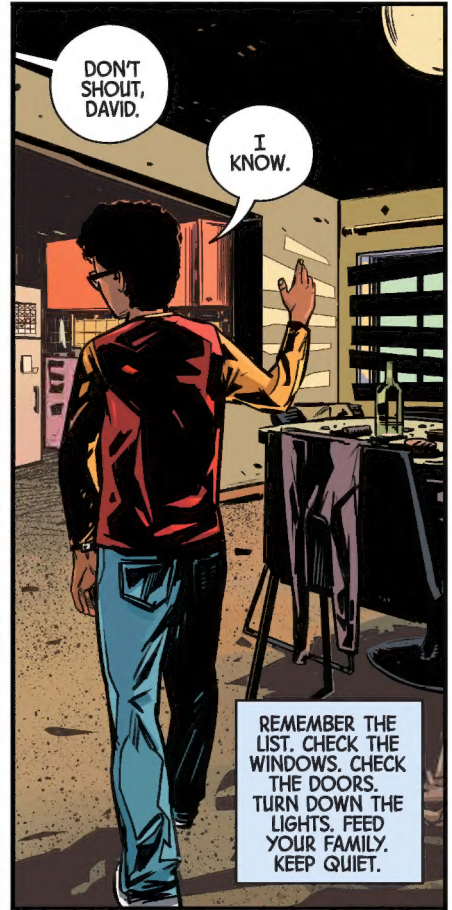
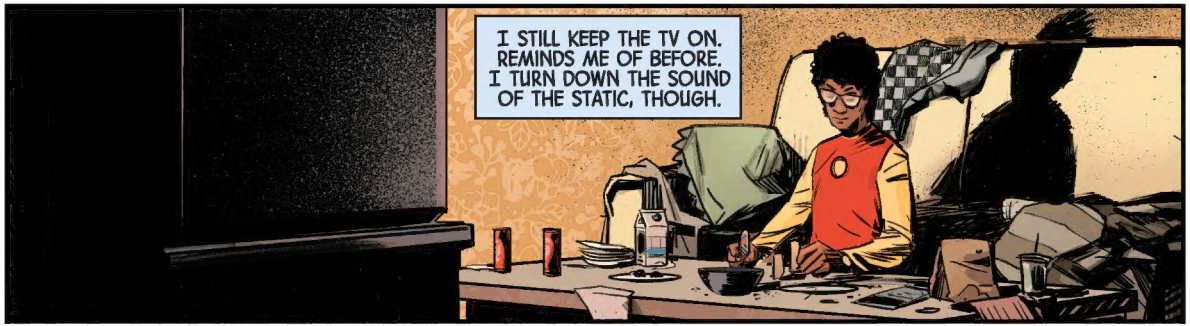
DAD?

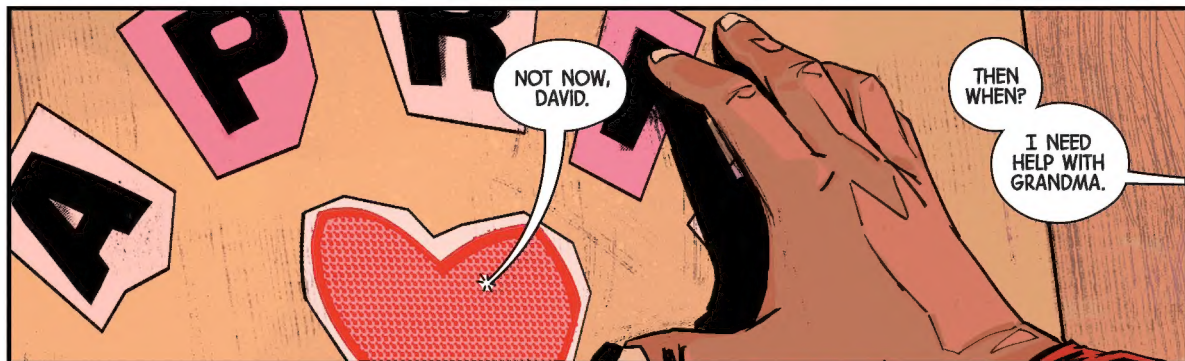
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

FZZZZ FZZZZ

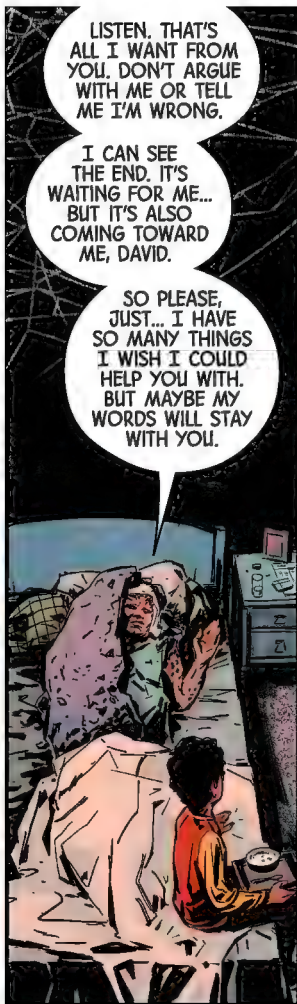
WE'LL START... BY BOARDING UP THE WINDOWS, APRIL.

THAT'S HOW IT BEGAN. A FEW MONTHS LATER EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED.





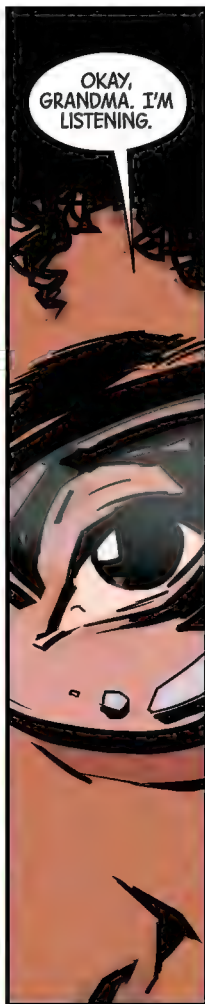




LISTEN. THAT'S ALL I WANT FROM YOU. DON'T ARGUE WITH ME OR TELL ME I'M WRONG.

I CAN SEE THE END. IT'S WAITING FOR ME... BUT IT'S ALSO COMING TOWARD ME, DAVID.

SO PLEASE, JUST... I HAVE SO MANY THINGS I WISH I COULD HELP YOU WITH. BUT MAYBE MY WORDS WILL STAY WITH YOU.



OKAY, GRANDMA. I'M LISTENING.



YOUR PARENTS DID NOT DIE BECAUSE OF THIS VIRUS. THE VIRUS IS ONLY BRINGING OUT WHAT PEOPLE REALLY ARE. YOUR MOM AND DAD WERE KILLED AT A MALL THAT WAS OVERRUN BY PREDATORS.

THEY WERE KILLED BY PEOPLE. WHETHER MUTATED OR NOT, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.



PEOPLE WITH SUPER-POWERS.

BUT NOT SUPER HEROES. POWER REVEALS PEOPLE, PURE AND SIMPLE.

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING POWER AND BEING A HERO. I KNOW THAT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND THIS.



I DO. BUT SOMETIMES THE POWER TURNS PEOPLE INTO HEROES. EVEN IF THEY AREN'T AT THE BEGINNING.



THIS IS A SORT OF JUDGMENT DAY. BUT IT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS. THE MEEK ARE SUPPOSED TO INHERIT THE EARTH, NOT THE MONSTERS.

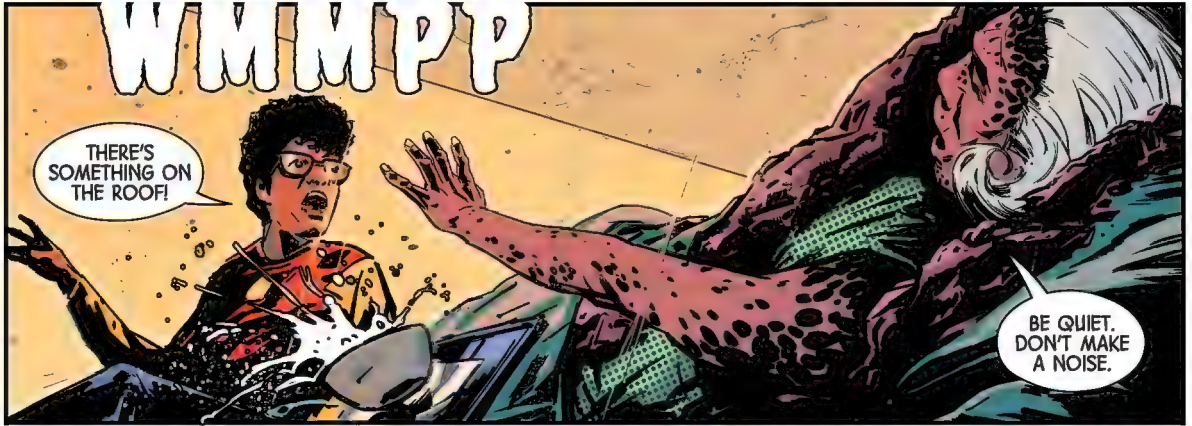


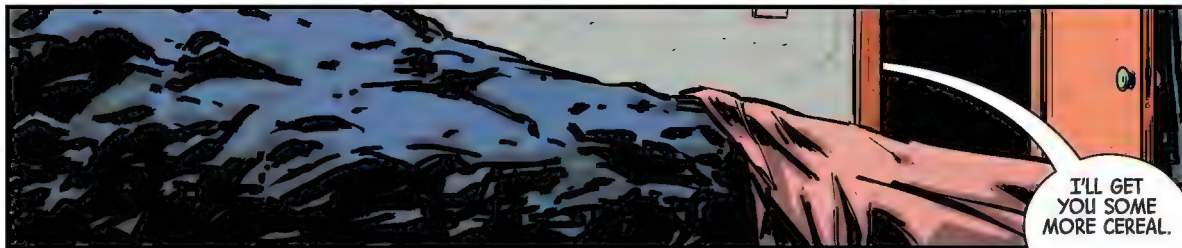
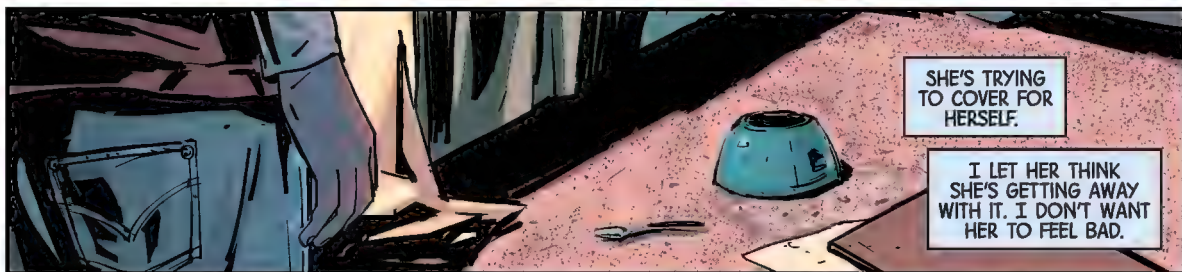
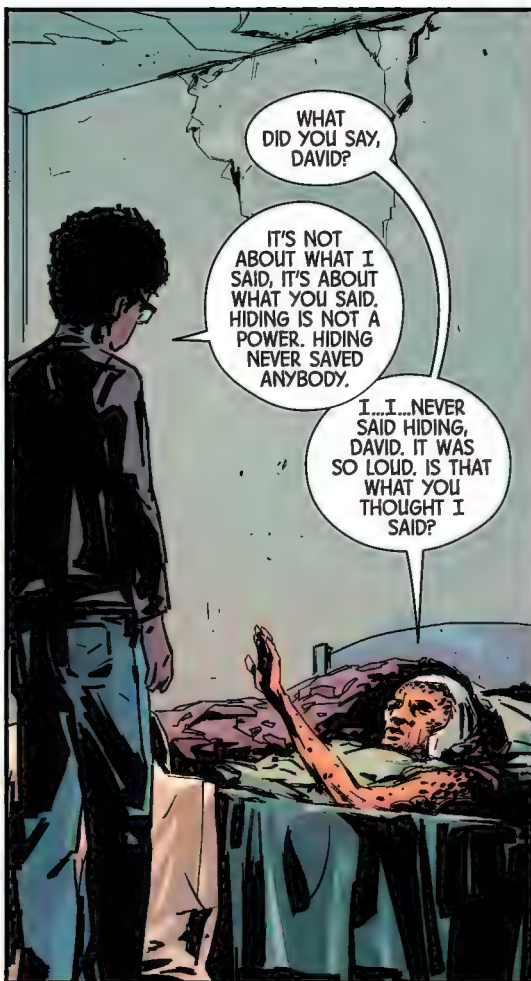
YOU, DAVID-- THIS WORLD SHOULD BE YOURS.

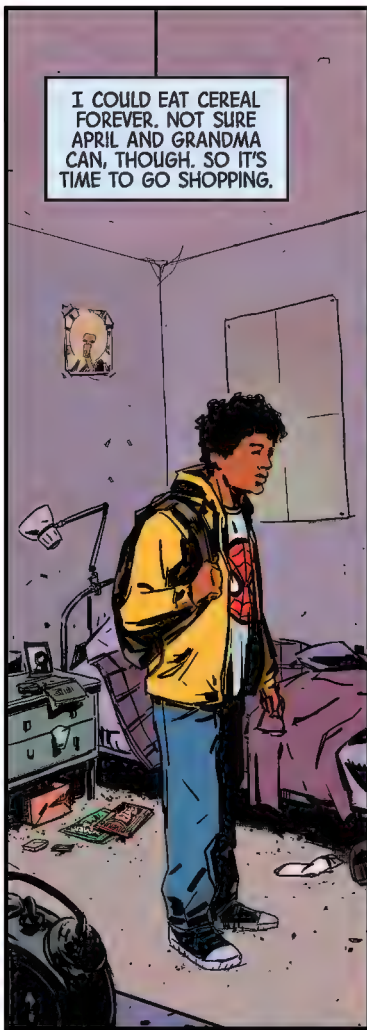


BUT I HAVE NO POWER.

YOU'RE NOT UNDERSTANDING ME, DAVID. YOU HAVE STRENGTH. YOUR HEROES AND YOUR BELIEF IN THEM HELP YOU ENDURE. ALL OF THIS. YOU CAN GO THROUGH ANYTHING, YOU...







I COULD EAT CEREAL FOREVER. NOT SURE APRIL AND GRANDMA CAN, THOUGH. SO IT'S TIME TO GO SHOPPING.



I TRY TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK AS DANGEROUS AS I POSSIBLY CAN...



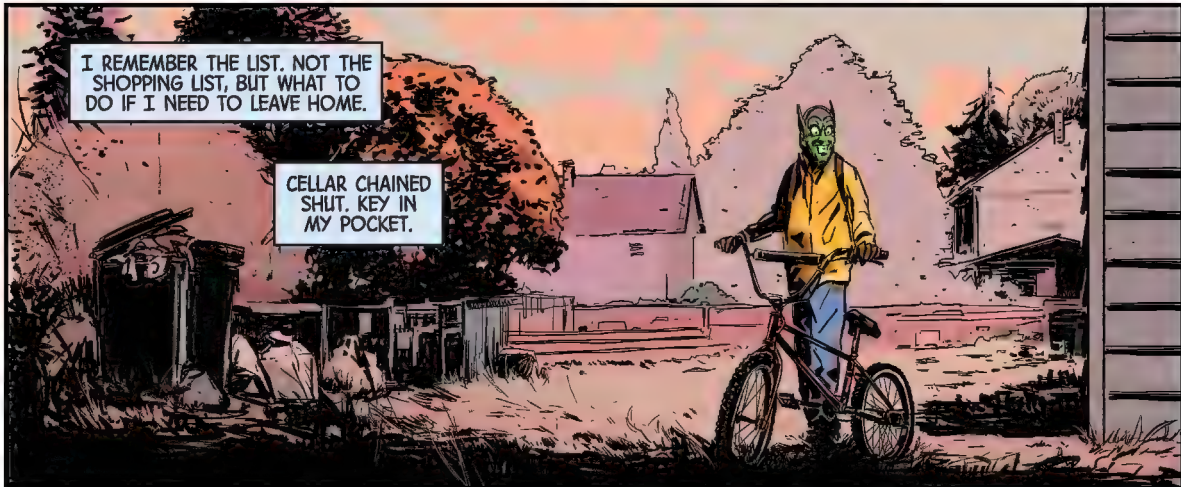
...BUT I'M STILL PRETTY SHORT. THE WORLD AFTER THE SCABS IS NOT GOOD FOR SHORT PEOPLE.

THOUGH SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME THAT WOLVERINE WAS ACTUALLY PRETTY SHORT.



THERE'S A GROCERY STORE IN TOWN. AT LEAST THERE WAS BEFORE LAST NIGHT.

I HOPE MRS. TREE WILL LET ME IN THIS TIME.



I REMEMBER THE LIST. NOT THE SHOPPING LIST, BUT WHAT TO DO IF I NEED TO LEAVE HOME.

CELLAR CHAINED SHUT. KEY IN MY POCKET.





I COULD HAVE
RIDDEN MY
SISTER'S BIKE. IT
HAS A BASKET.

BUT WHAT WOULD
THAT LOOK LIKE?
HAVING NO
POWERS AND RIDING
A GIRL'S BIKE.



AT LEAST I REMEMBERED TO
BRING A FLASHLIGHT THIS TIME.

MRS.
TREE?



HELLO,
DAVID. I
ASSUME THAT'S
DAVID BEHIND
THAT MASK. MORE
FOOD FOR YOUR
GRANDMA AND
SISTER?



OF COURSE,
MRS. TREE.

YOU'VE BEEN
CALLING ME THAT
SINCE BEFORE YOU
COULD SAY "PANTRY."
GLAD SOME
THINGS DON'T
CHANGE.

NO,
MA'AM.



YOU'RE NOW
MY OLDEST
CUSTOMER.
YOU USED
TO BE MY
YOUNGEST.

I PUT
SOME SPECIAL
THINGS IN HERE
FOR YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY.



THANK
YOU.

THERE'S A
TRUCKER WHO
BRINGS FOOD IN
SOMETIMES. I KEEP
THIS PLACE OPEN
FOR THE FAMILIES
THAT ARE STILL
HERE.

IF YOU
CALL A SECRET
ENTRANCE THROUGH
THE DUMPSTER "OPEN,"
OF COURSE. STILL,
WE NEED TO HIDE IF
WE ARE GOING
TO LIVE.



YEAH...
HIDE.

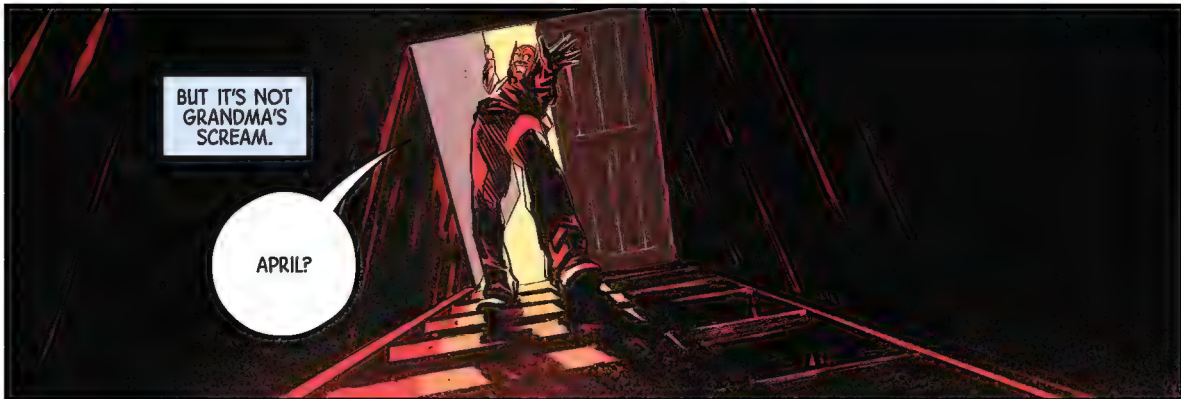
I WISH
THERE WERE
MORE I COULD DO
FOR YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY, DAVID.

YOU SHOULD
HAVE SOMEONE
LOOKING OUT FOR
YOU. NOT THE
OTHER WAY
AROUND.



AND THEN
I HEAR IT.

A TERRIBLE SCREAM.
LIKE A DEATH SCREAM.
AND IT'S COMING
FROM INSIDE.



BUT IT'S NOT
GRANDMA'S
SCREAM.

APRIL?



MY DAD LEFT HAMMERS
AND NAILS AND BOARDS
ALL OVER THE HOUSE.

HE SAID WE NEVER KNEW
WHEN WE'D HAVE TO
MAKE A WALL.



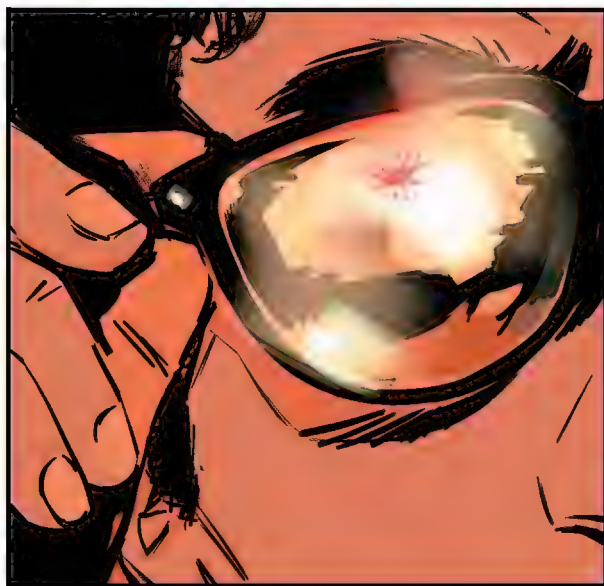
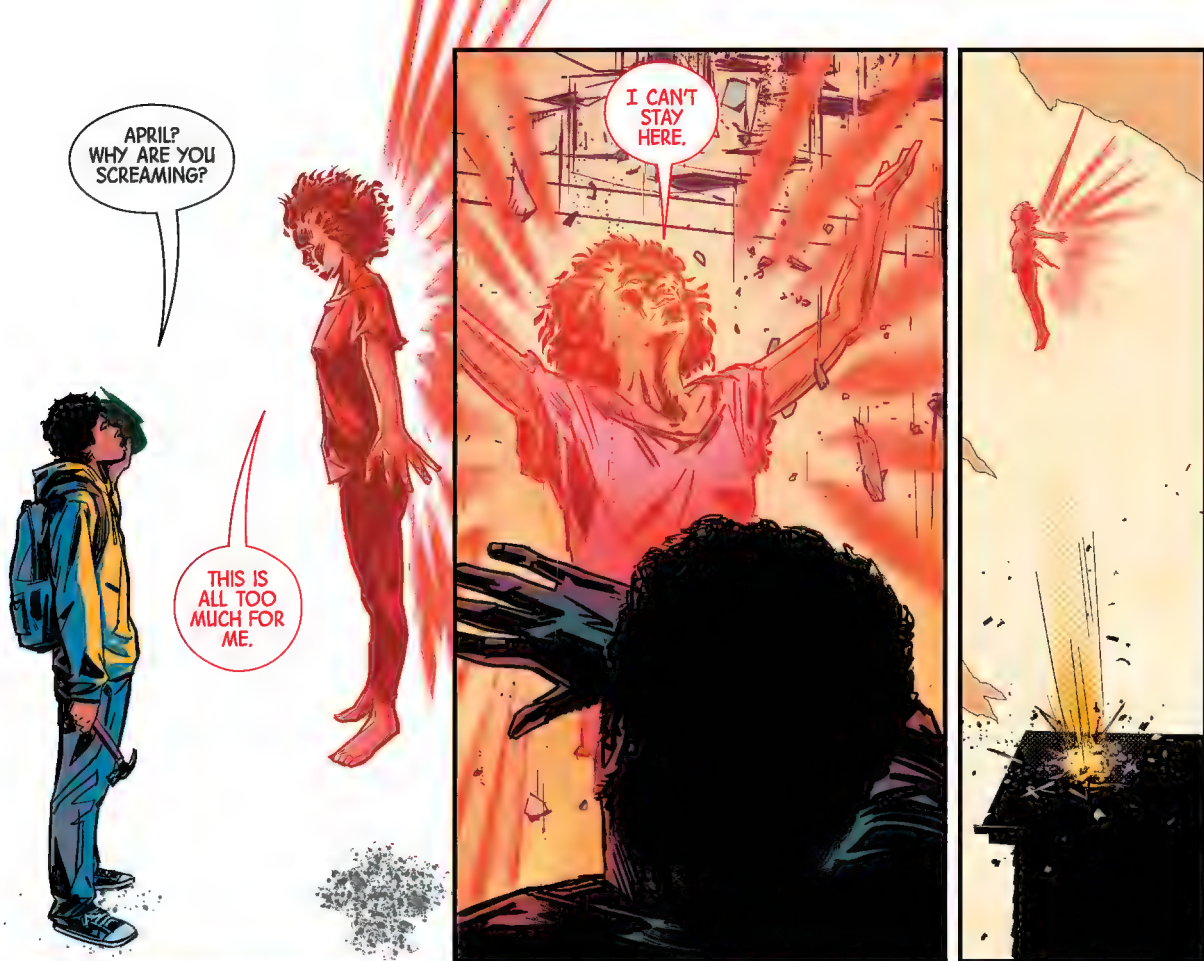
I ONLY GRAB
THE HAMMER.

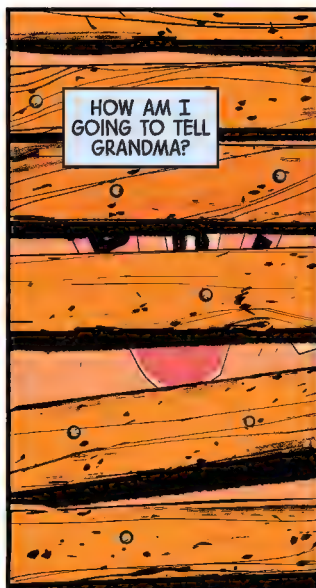
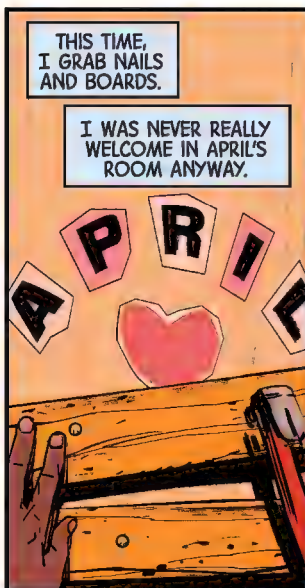
APRIL!!!



WHOEVER
YOU ARE,
LEAVE
MY SISTER
ALONE!









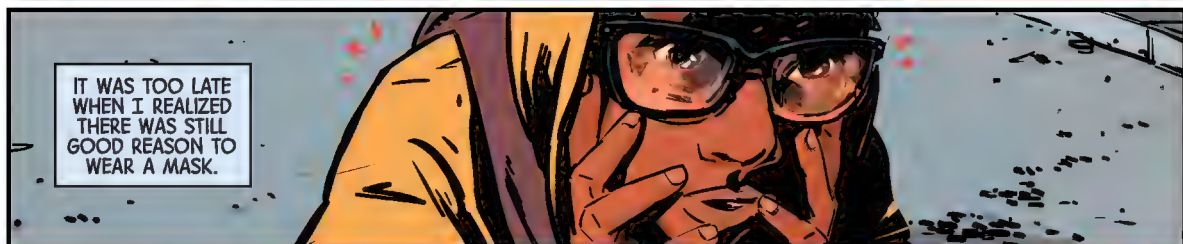
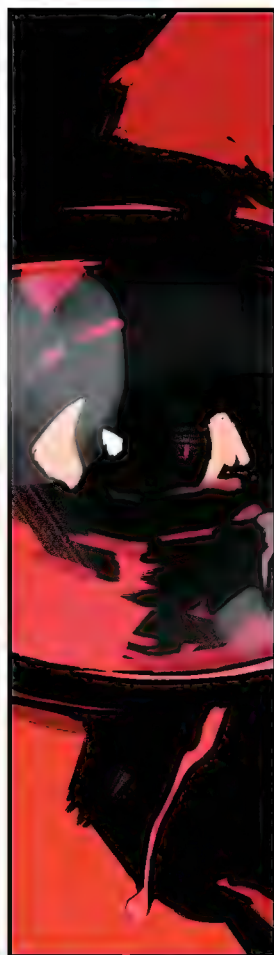
THERE WAS
NOTHING TO
KEEP ME HERE.

NOTHING BUT
MEMORIES OF
A ME I DIDN'T
WANT TO BE.



THERE WAS NO
REASON TO CHECK
THE WINDOWS OR
BOLT THE DOORS.

NO REASON
TO CHAIN THE
CELLAR OR DIM
THE LIGHTS.



IT WAS TOO LATE
WHEN I REALIZED
THERE WAS STILL
GOOD REASON TO
WEAR A MASK.



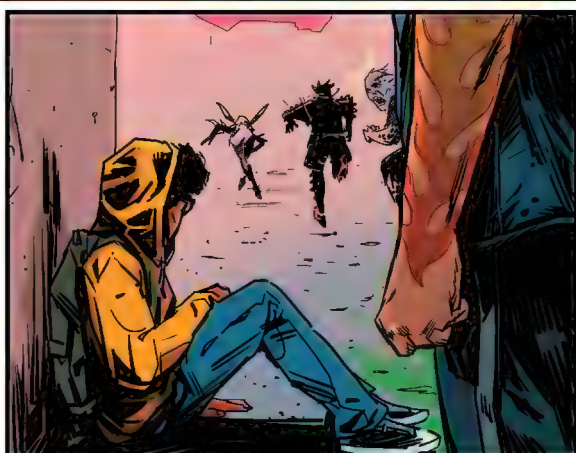
IT WASN'T THE FOOD
I WAS CARRYING IN
MY BACKPACK THAT
THEY WERE AFTER.

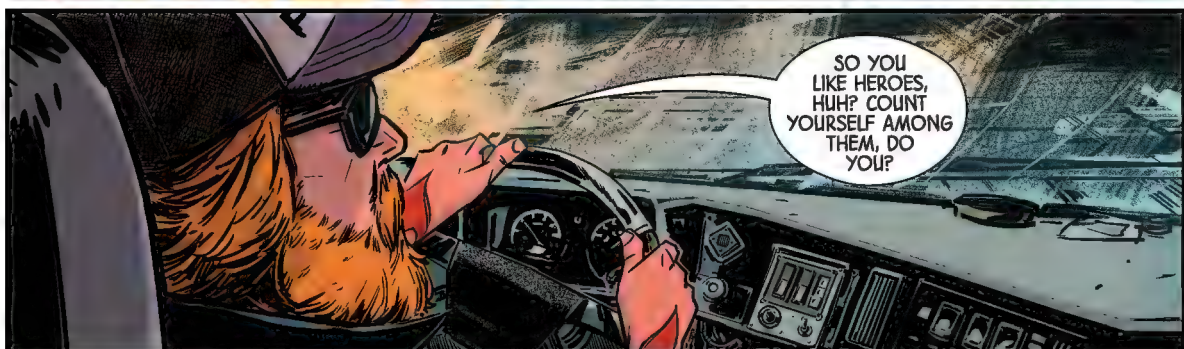
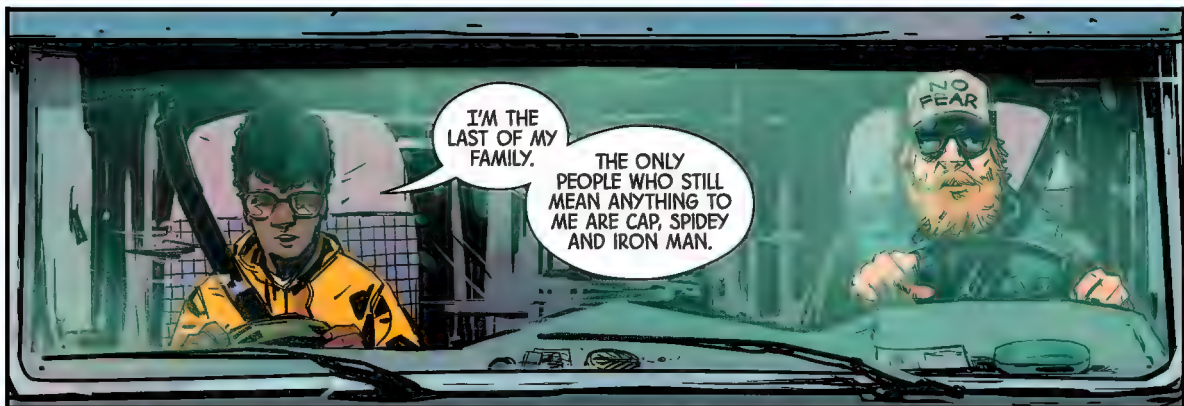
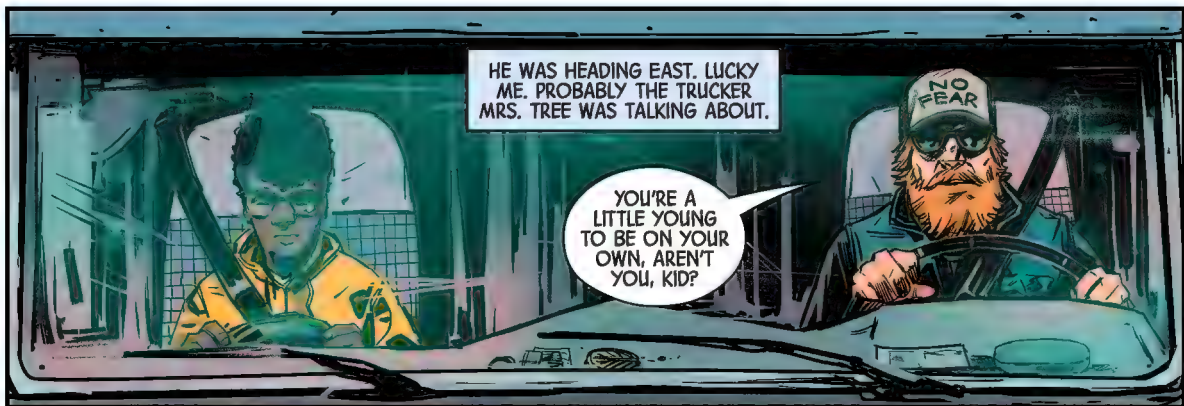
IT WAS ME.

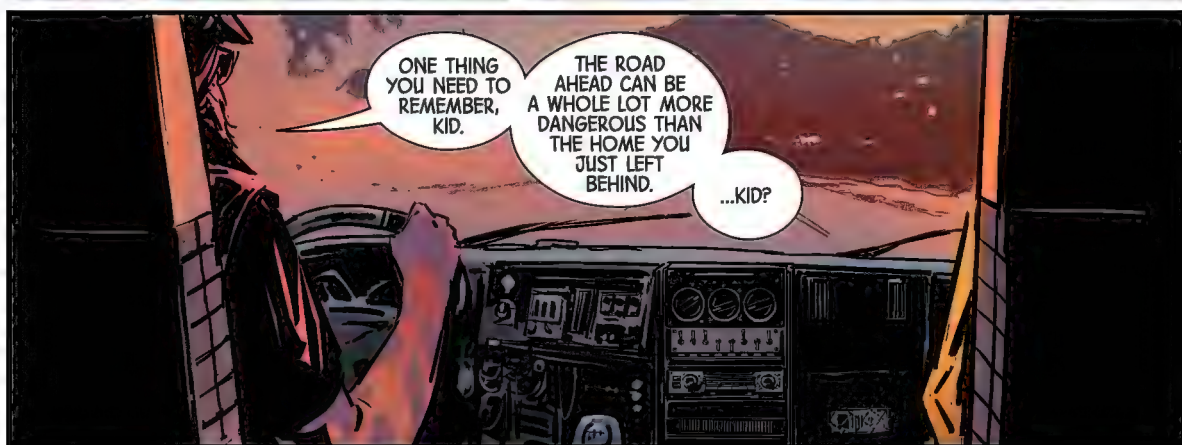
THEY WERE
HUNGRY.



AND I WAS
STUPID.







TWO



A full-page comic book illustration of Spider-Man standing amidst a scene of total destruction. He is in the center, looking down with a somber expression. The background is a chaotic mess of twisted metal, shattered concrete, and burning debris. A large, jagged, grey rock formation looms behind him. To his right, a green, segmented, tentacle-like structure is visible. In the lower right, a purple object with a single eye is partially buried in the rubble. A handgun lies on the ground near his feet. The sky is a mix of red and orange, suggesting fire or a sunset. The overall tone is one of tragedy and resilience.

THE THING I LOVE ABOUT
SPIDER-MAN MOST, I THINK, IS
THAT HE CAN'T BE SQUASHED.

NO MATTER HOW
MUCH GETS PILED ON
HIM, HE CAN TAKE IT.

HE'S STRONGER THAN IT
ALL. NOTHING GETS HIM DOWN.
AND EVEN WITHOUT MEETING
HIM, EVEN THOUGH I LIVED
IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
NEIGHBORHOOD, I KNEW DEEP
DOWN THAT HE WAS A FRIEND.

MAYBE ONE DAY, WHEN
BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO
ME, I'LL BE ABLE TO
JOKE LIKE HE DOES.



HEY, KID, WAKE UP.

WHERE ARE WE?



JERSEY. YOU SLEPT MOST OF THE TRIP.

FROM OHIO THROUGH PENNSYLVANIA THROUGH MOST OF JERSEY. ALL YOU MISSED WAS LOOTING, VIOLENCE AND THE WORLD GONE WILD.



IS THAT NEW YORK?

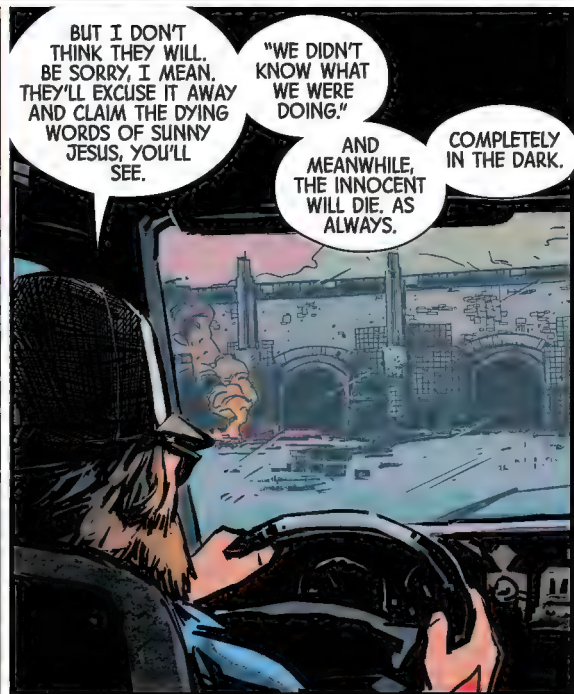


YEP, THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS HAS FINALLY SHUT ITS EYES.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE A LOT TO BE SORRY ABOUT WHEN THIS CALMS DOWN.

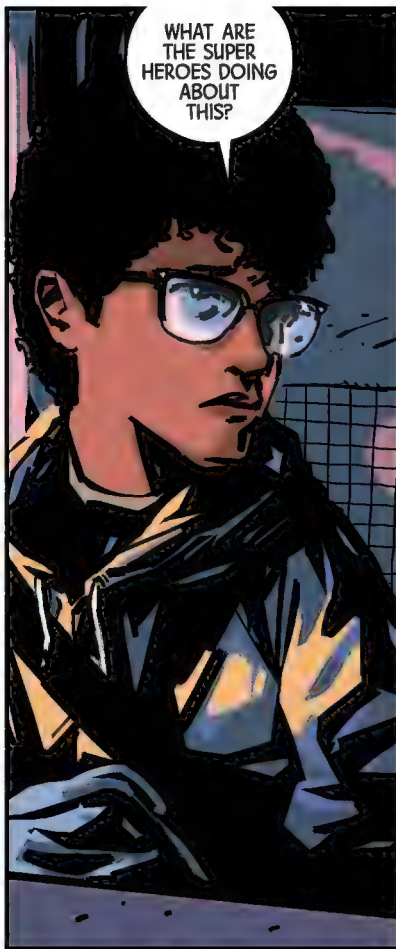


BUT I DON'T THINK THEY WILL. BE SORRY, I MEAN. THEY'LL EXCUSE IT AWAY AND CLAIM THE DYING WORDS OF SUNNY JESUS, YOU'LL SEE.

"WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE WERE DOING."

AND MEANWHILE, THE INNOCENT WILL DIE, AS ALWAYS.

COMPLETELY IN THE DARK.

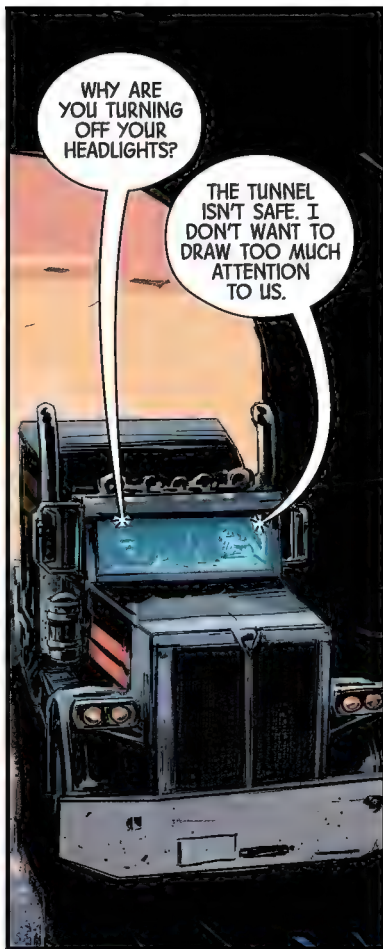


WHAT ARE THE SUPER HEROES DOING ABOUT THIS?



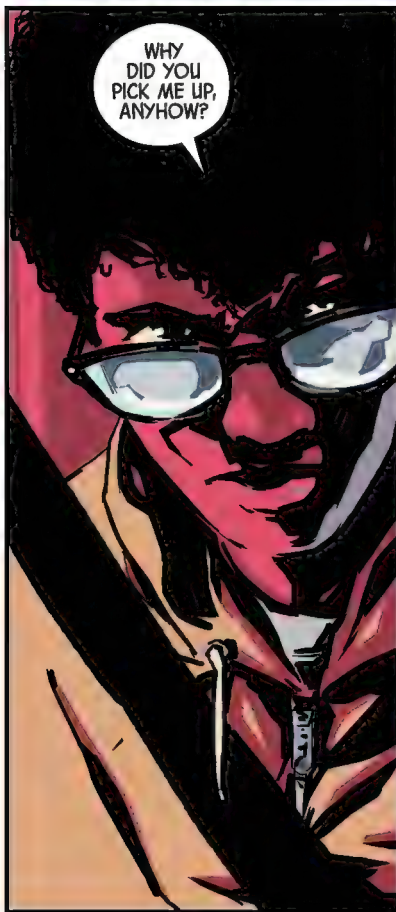
WHAT THEY DO BEST.

THEY'RE TAKING THE BLAME. I THINK RIGHT NOW MOST PEOPLE ARE HOLDING THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S REED RICHARDS RESPONSIBLE. ONE OF HIS EXPERIMENTS GONE WRONG OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.



WHY ARE YOU TURNING OFF YOUR HEADLIGHTS?

THE TUNNEL ISN'T SAFE. I DON'T WANT TO DRAW TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO US.

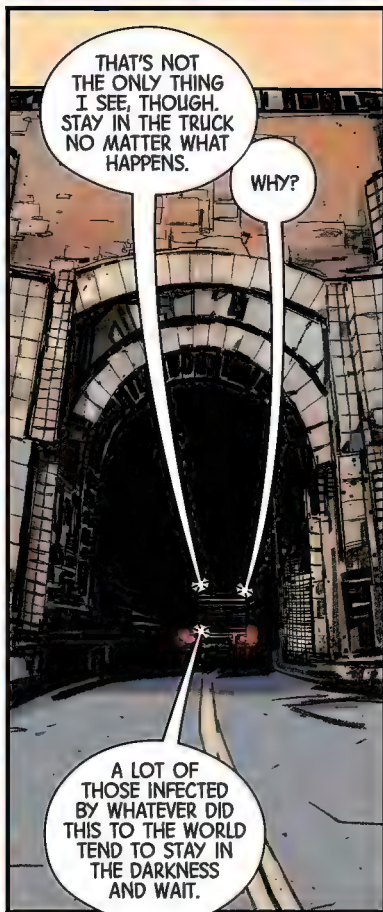


WHY DID YOU PICK ME UP, ANYHOW?



THERE ISN'T MUCH I'M AFRAID OF. I'VE SEEN PRETTY MUCH ALL THE EVIL THIS WORLD HAS TO SHOW.

SO INNOCENCE TENDS TO STAND OUT TO ME. YOU STOOD OUT.



THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING I SEE, THOUGH. STAY IN THE TRUCK NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.

WHY?

A LOT OF THOSE INFECTED BY WHATEVER DID THIS TO THE WORLD TEND TO STAY IN THE DARKNESS AND WAIT.



WAIT?
FOR
WHAT?

FOOD.



THEY WERE
WAITING FOR
US. JUST LIKE
JOHN SAID.

MAYBE THEY HAD
SOME KIND OF
SUPER-VISION THAT
WAS SENSITIVE TO
LIGHT. BUT THERE
WASN'T TIME TO
ASK JOHN.



NO
MATTER WHAT
YOU SEE, INSIDE OR
OUTSIDE THE TRUCK,
STAY INSIDE.



WE'RE
ON FIRE!

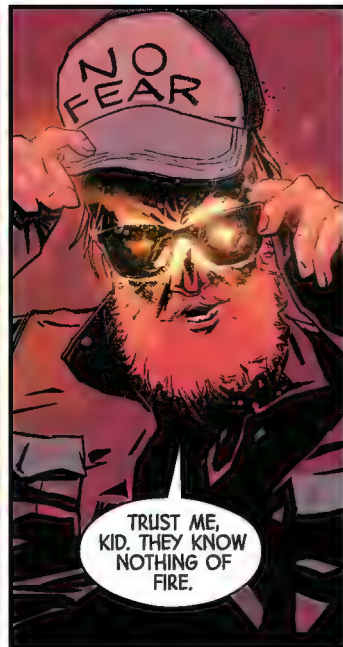
THEY'RE TRYING
TO FORCE US OUT
INTO THE TUNNEL. BUT
THIS TRUCK OF MINE
HAS GONE THROUGH
A LOT. WE'LL BE FINE.



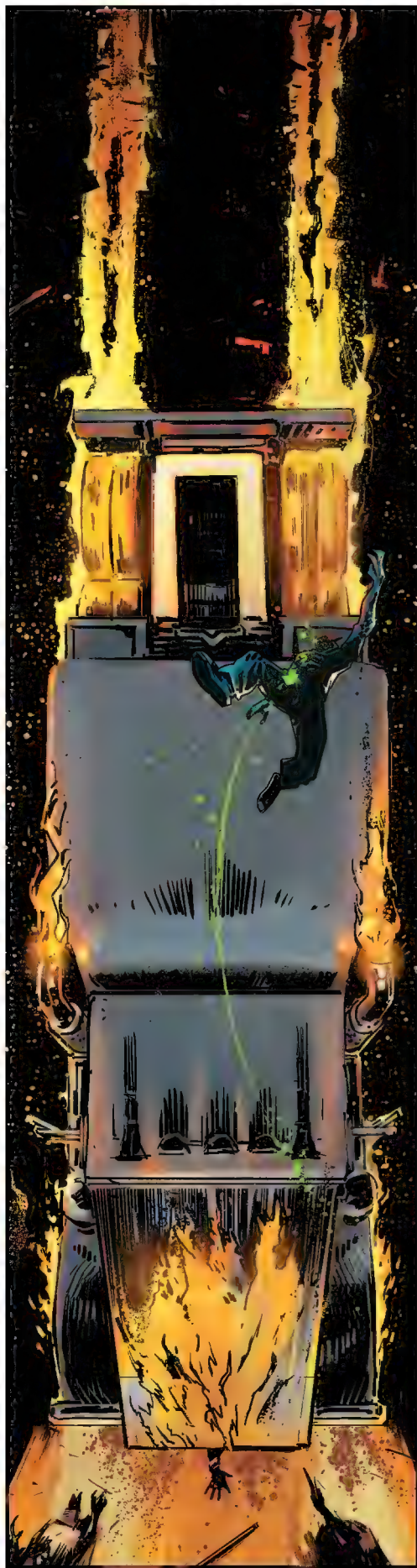
"BUT THEY'RE
GETTING IN!"

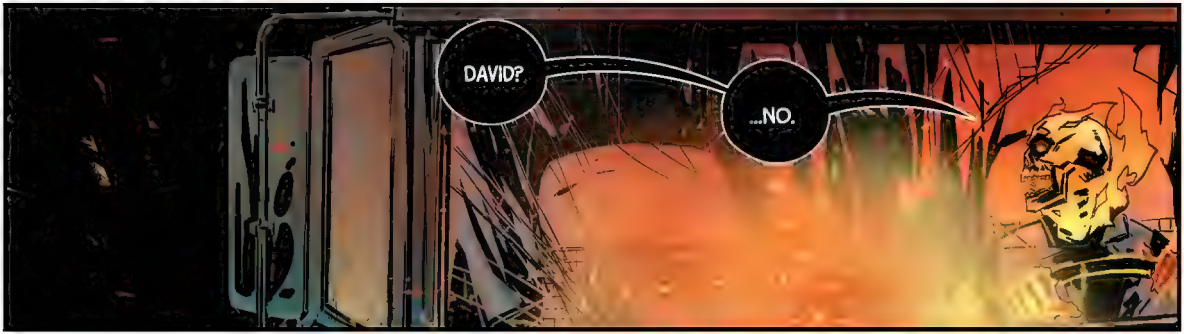


WE NEED TO
GO...WE NEED TO
GO...WE NEED TO...
THEY'RE GETTING IN,
AND WE'RE ON
FIRE!



TRUST ME,
KID. THEY KNOW
NOTHING OF
FIRE.





DAVID?

...NO.



THAT THING
WAS AFTER ME.

SOME KIND
OF DEMON. LIKE
GRANDMA ALWAYS
TALKED ABOUT.



I'VE NEVER BEEN
SO GLAD TO KNOW
HOW TO HIDE.



KID? IT'S
OKAY. I'M
GHOST
RIDER.

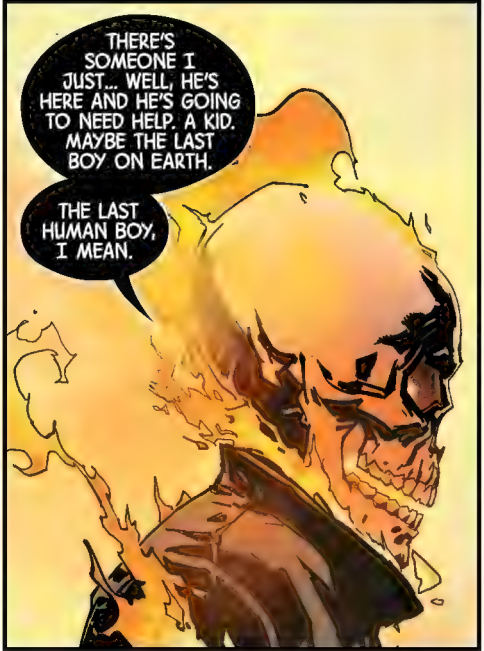
I GUESS
YOU'VE NEVER
HEARD OF ME.
I USED TO
HAVE A
BIKE.



KNEW I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE GOTTEN
RID OF THE
COSTUME.

EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE DEFEATED SOMETIME!
MEET YOUR
HEROES
FOR FREE
MURDOCK, NELSON AND WALTERS

HEY,
"EARS,"
IT'S ME.



THERE'S
SOMEONE I
JUST... WELL, HE'S
HERE AND HE'S GOING
TO NEED HELP. A KID.
MAYBE THE LAST
BOY ON EARTH.

THE LAST
HUMAN BOY,
I MEAN.

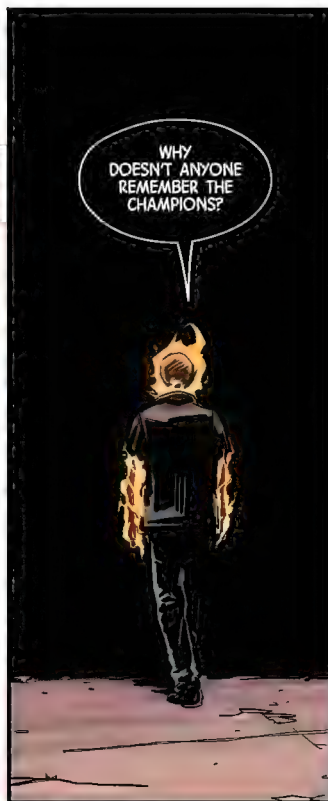


HIS NAME IS DAVID. AND HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE MUTATED LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

WHEN YOU FIND HIM, TELL HIM THAT WHILE I MAY NEVER HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS...



...I'M NOT A BAD GUY EITHER.



WHY DOESN'T ANYONE REMEMBER THE CHAMPIONS?



JUST A LITTLE LONGER. WAIT AND HE'LL BE GONE.

I WONDER IF CAPTAIN AMERICA EVER FOUGHT THAT GUY.



MAYBE HE'S RELATED TO THE RED SKULL.



CAN'T FORGET THE MASK THIS TIME.



IT'S LIKE THE
HEROES LEFT
NEW YORK.

BUT THAT'S
NOT LIKE THEM.
NOT AT ALL.

DID WHATEVER GAVE
EVERYONE ON EARTH
SUPER-POWERS EXCEPT
FOR ME...SOMEHOW
AFFECT THEM? STOP
THEM FROM WANTING
TO BE HEROES?

WHERE
ARE YOU?



WHERE?







IT'S GOING TO BE NIGHT SOON. I NEED TO FIND SOMEPLACE TO HIDE.



OH!

I'M SORRY.



OH, MY GOSH. YOU'RE HUMAN LIKE ME?



I'LL GRAB YOUR GROCERIES AS WELL.

DON'T BOTHER. THEY'RE HEAVY.



BY THE WAY, CALLING ME HUMAN, THAT'S JUST ABOUT THE NICEST THING ANYONE HAS EVER SAID TO ME.

MY NAME'S AARON. AARON STACK. AND YOU ARE?



AAAGHHHHH!

I'M...I'M ALL ALONE HERE.

IT'S TOO DANGEROUS
DOWN HERE. HAVE TO
FIND SOMEPLACE HIGHER.

GLAD THERE ARE
SO MANY LADDERS
IN NEW YORK.

THERE'S SOMETHING
OUT THERE. I HEAR IT. I
THINK IT'S HUNTING ME.

BUT THE RAIN,
I THINK, IS
MAKING IT
HARDER FOR IT
TO GET MY SCENT.

CAP??

I KNOW
YOU ARE REALLY
BUSY...AND YOU'RE
PROBABLY TRYING
TO FIGURE OUT HOW
TO SAVE THE WORLD...
BUT IF YOU CAN
HEAR ME...CAN
YOU COME AND
SAVE ME?

I THINK
IT HEARD ME
WHISPERING.

IF SOMETHING
DOESN'T CHANGE,
IT'LL GET ME.

LUCKILY,
WHATEVER IS
HUNTING ME
JUST GOT
ATTACKED BY
SOMETHING
ELSE.

CAP...EVEN
THOUGH YOU'RE
NOT HERE...I
NEED YOU TO BE A
SHIELD AROUND
ME.

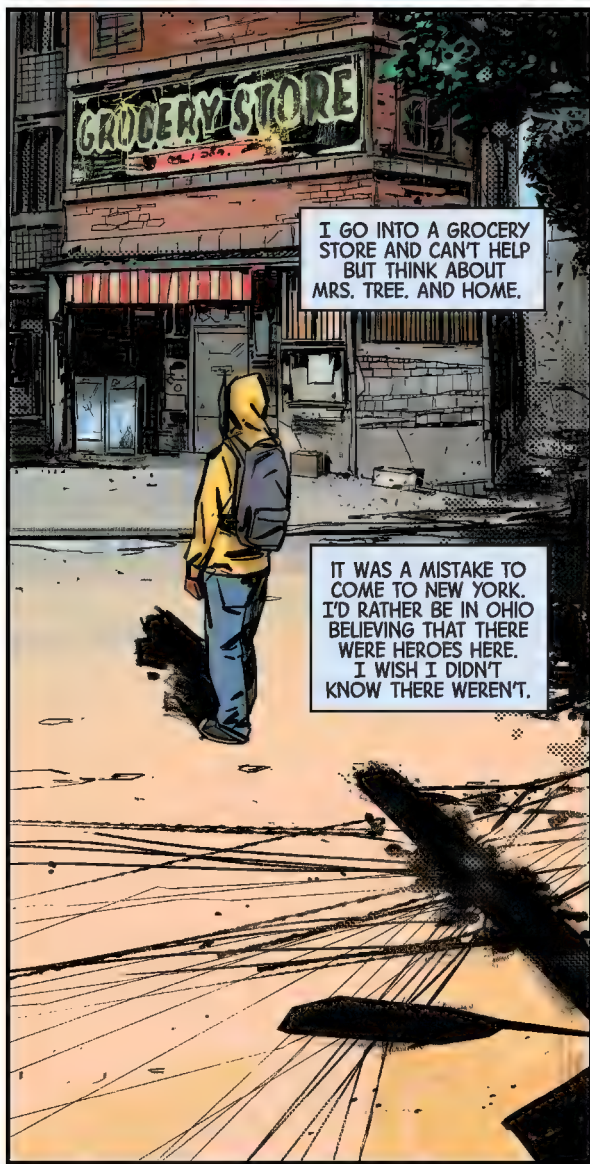


I WHISPERED AND
HOPED AND PRAYED LIKE
GRANDMA TAUGHT ME
TO ALL NIGHT LONG.

WELL, IT
WASN'T YOU,
CAP. BUT
SOMEONE SAVED
ME LAST
NIGHT.



THANKS
FOR LOOKING
OUT FOR ME,
WHOEVER
YOU ARE.



GROCERY STORE

I GO INTO A GROCERY
STORE AND CAN'T HELP
BUT THINK ABOUT
MRS. TREE. AND HOME.

IT WAS A MISTAKE TO
COME TO NEW YORK.
I'D RATHER BE IN OHIO
BELIEVING THAT THERE
WERE HEROES HERE.
I WISH I DIDN'T
KNOW THERE WEREN'T.



INSTEAD, I
JUST FIND MORE
LOOTERS.

MORE KILLERS
OF FAMILIES.

PLEASE,
JUST TAKE
WHAT YOU WANT.
TAKE WHAT YOU
WANT AND
GO.



THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE.



I TAKE A STEP
BACK. IT'S MY LAST
ONE, CLEARLY.

I'M DEAD.



DAVID, I
PRESUME?

I...
I...



BOY, ARE
YOU GUYS IN
TROUBLE.

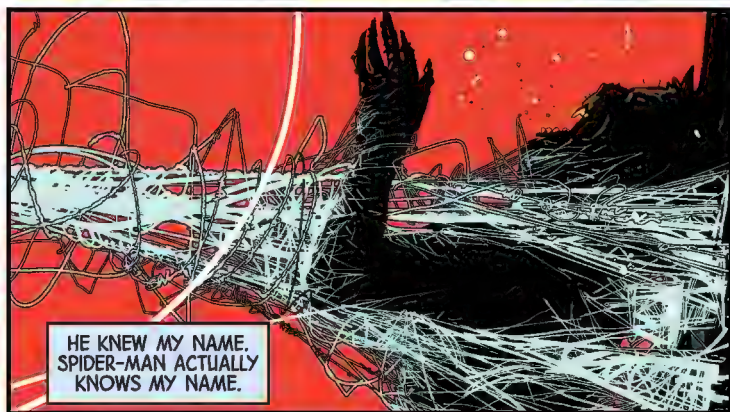
SPIDER-MAN! IT'S
SPIDER-MAN! I
CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I'M
SO GLAD I CAME
TO NEW YORK!



YOU KNOW,
NORMALLY I
WOULD MAKE A JOKE
AROUND NOW. BUT
I'M HAVING A HARD
TIME SEEING HOW
ANY OF THIS IS
AT ALL FUNNY
ANYMORE.



IT WAS THE MOST
AMAZING THING
I'VE EVER SEEN.



HE KNEW MY NAME.
SPIDER-MAN ACTUALLY
KNOWS MY NAME.



THANK YOU,
MR. PARKER-MAN.
THANK YOU.



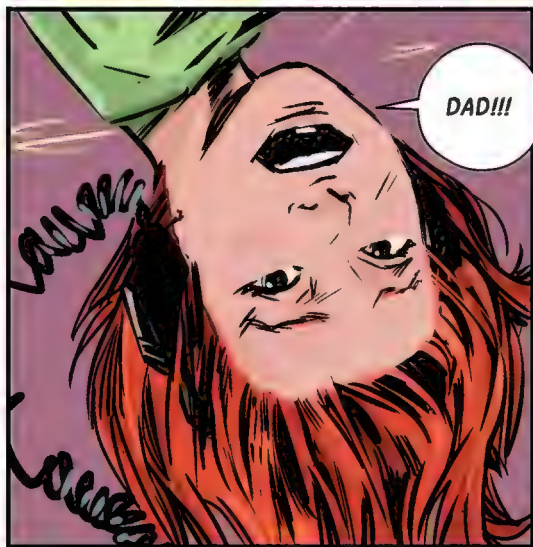
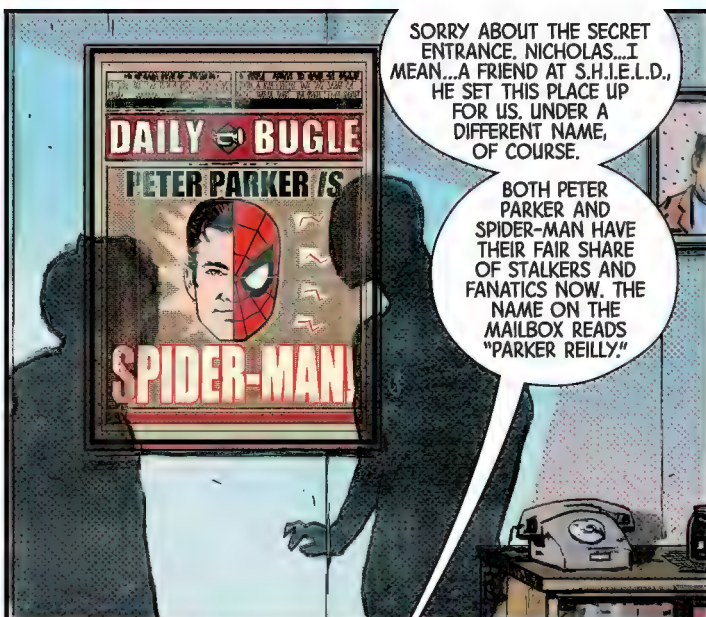
IT'S
SPIDER-MAN.



READY
TO GO,
DAVID?

I...I...
I...







THIS IS YOUR COUCH, DAVID. I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.

IS THAT YOUR MOM?



IT IS. SHE DIED LAST YEAR. THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE.

YEAH...MY PARENTS WERE KILLED BY LOOTERS, AND THEN MY SISTER FLEW AWAY AND MY GRANDMA DIED.



ALL POWER EVER DOES...IS GIVE PEOPLE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HAVING TO BURY THEIR LOVED ONES.

THAT'S NOT HOW THE SAYING GOES, PETER, AND YOU KNOW IT.



DAREDEVIL?

THE "FRIEND" WHO TOLD ME TO LOOK OUT FOR YOU.



HI, DAVID. GLAD YOU MADE IT.

HI.

DAREDEVIL WASN'T LIKE SPIDER-MAN AT ALL. HE WAS...NICE.



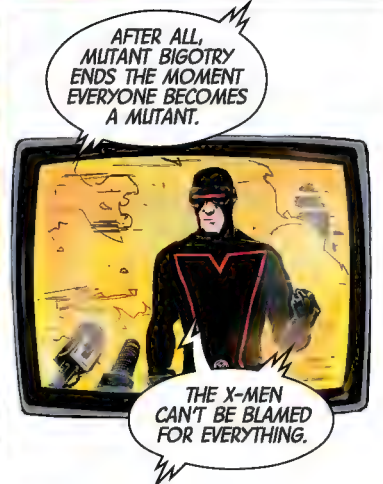
I'M SORRY THAT JOHNNY BLAZE SCARED YOU SO MUCH. HE'S ACTUALLY A VERY GOOD GUY, EVEN IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT.



DAREDEVIL AND PETER (HE WANTS ME TO CALL HIM PETER) GO INTO THE OTHER ROOM. MAY AND I TURN ON THE TV.

IT'S LIKE HAVING A FAMILY AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE THEORY THAT MUTANTS ARE BEHIND THIS, MR. CYCLOPS?

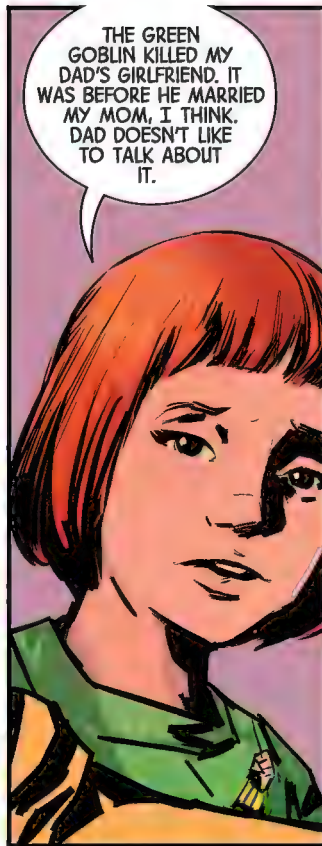


AFTER ALL, MUTANT BIGOTRY ENDS THE MOMENT EVERYONE BECOMES A MUTANT.

THE X-MEN CAN'T BE BLAMED FOR EVERYTHING.



YOUR DAD SEEMED REALLY UPSET THAT I WAS WEARING THIS. IT WAS JUST A DISGUISE.

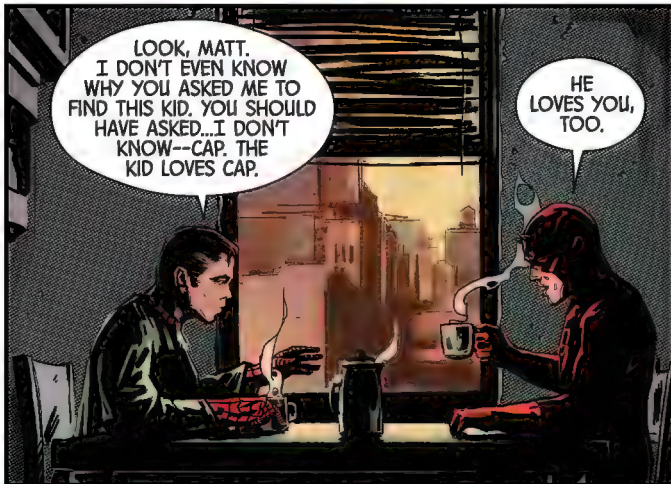


THE GREEN GOBLIN KILLED MY DAD'S GIRLFRIEND. IT WAS BEFORE HE MARRIED MY MOM, I THINK. DAD DOESN'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT.



STUPID. I'M SO STUPID.

IT'LL BE OKAY, DAVID. HE'S STILL STRONG. HE'S SPIDER-MAN.



LOOK, MATT. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY YOU ASKED ME TO FIND THIS KID. YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED...I DON'T KNOW--CAP. THE KID LOVES CAP.

HE LOVES YOU, TOO.



YOU BURNED THE COFFEE, BY THE WAY.

I WOULD HAVE GRABBED DAVID LAST NIGHT...



BUT...THE RAIN...REALLY THREW OFF MY...MY...



...RADAR. AND WHILE REED RICHARDS MAY BE EXCITED TO SEE IF DAVID HOLDS A CURE FOR THIS NEW WAVE OF MUTATIONS...

...WE NEED TO ACCEPT THAT THE WORLD HAS CHANGED AND WE HAVE TO CHANGE WITH IT.



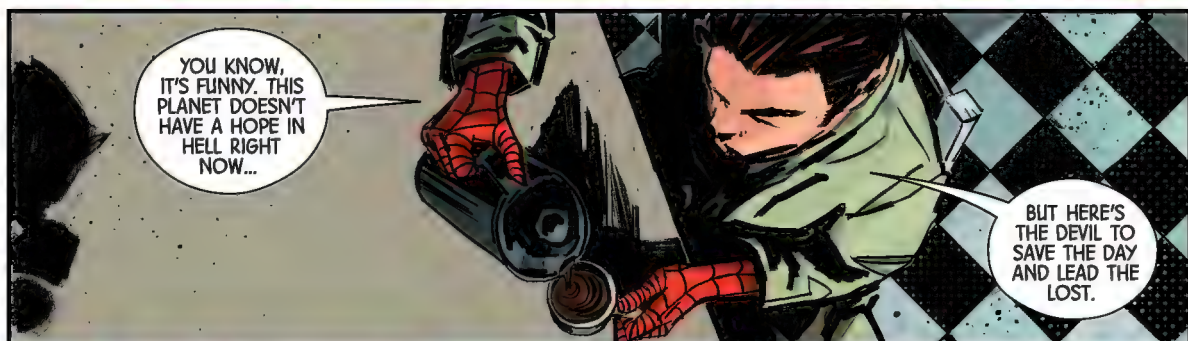
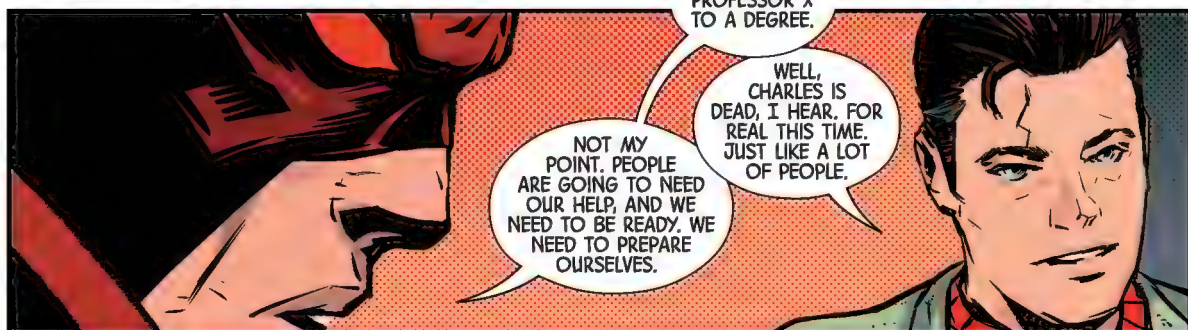
PEOPLE DON'T
KNOW HOW TO
USE THEIR NEW
ABILITIES.

WE ALWAYS
USED OUR POWERS
TO PROTECT PEOPLE,
BUT NOW WE NEED TO
HELP THEM LEARN ABOUT
HOW TO LIVE WITH
THESE GIANT
CHANGES.

WE'VE
ALL BECOME
PROFESSOR X
TO A DEGREE.

WELL,
CHARLES IS
DEAD, I HEAR. FOR
REAL THIS TIME.
JUST LIKE A LOT
OF PEOPLE.

NOT MY
POINT. PEOPLE
ARE GOING TO NEED
OUR HELP, AND WE
NEED TO BE READY. WE
NEED TO PREPARE
OURSELVES.



YOU KNOW,
IT'S FUNNY. THIS
PLANET DOESN'T
HAVE A HOPE IN
HELL RIGHT
NOW...

BUT HERE'S
THE DEVIL TO
SAVE THE DAY
AND LEAD THE
LOST.



THERE'S A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN HELPING PEOPLE
AND CARRYING THE WEIGHT
OF THE WORLD,
PETER.

RIGHT NOW
THERE'S A BOY IN
THE OTHER ROOM WHO'S
CRYING BECAUSE HE WORE
A MASK THAT HURT
YOUR FEELINGS.



YOU'RE
GOING TO
HAVE TO...

MATT?



I FOUGHT
SOMETHING
LAST NIGHT,
PETER. IT...

IT'S NOT
GOING TO
ATTACK MY
DAUGHTER, IS
IT? WHAT HAVE
YOU BROUGHT
INTO MY
HOME?



IT WAS
AFTER DAVID,
NOT MAY.



"IT'S OUT THERE.
RIGHT NOW.

"IT WANTS TO
DEVOUR HIM.
AND WHY?"

"HE MAY BE ALL
THAT'S LEFT OF
HUMANITY."



SO IN
ANSWER TO
YOUR EARLIER
QUESTION...

I CHOSE
YOU, PETER,
BECAUSE YOU'VE
ALWAYS BEEN THE
MOST HUMAN OF
ANY OF US.

IF YOU
CAN SAVE DAVID,
YOU'LL SAVE US ALL,
REGARDLESS OF
WHETHER THERE'S
A CURE OR
NOT.



AND
THAT'S WHAT'S
AT STAKE,
ISN'T IT?

WE'RE NOT
JUST SAVING THE
UNIVERSE. WE'RE
SAVING THE THINGS
THAT MAKE LIFE
WORTH LIVING.

WE'RE FIGHTING
FOR THE THINGS
WORTH DYING FOR
IN EACH OF
US.

THREE



THE FANTASTIC FOUR
ARE DIFFERENT FROM
ALL OTHER HEROES
BECAUSE THEY AREN'T
AFRAID OF EVEN THE
THINGS THEY CAN'T SEE.

THEY GOT THEIR POWERS
FROM SPACE, WITHOUT
EVEN KNOWING WHAT WAS
OUT THERE. THEY'VE
DISCOVERED OTHER WORLDS
NOT KNOWING WHAT WOULD
BE WAITING FOR THEM.
THEY FOUGHT GODS WITH
ALMOST NO CHANCE
OF SUCCESS AT ALL.

I THINK IT'S BECAUSE
THEY ALSO KNEW...OR
HOPED...THAT IN THE
UNKNOWN, WHERE THE
THREATS WERE, NEW ALLIES
WAITED TO HELP AS WELL.



I HOPE I CAN FACE THE
UNKNOWN DANGERS TO
COME...AND KNOW THAT
THERE WILL BE FRIENDS
TO FIND AS WELL.

I CAME ALL THE WAY TO NEW YORK, TO THE PLACE WHERE THE HEROES WERE, TO FIND THAT THINGS MIGHT EVEN BE WORSE HERE.

NOW THAT EVERYONE EXCEPT ME HAS SUPER-POWERS, WHAT DO THE HEROES EVEN DO ANYMORE?

AT LEAST THEY CAN STILL PROTECT ME.

THE ATTACKS ON THE BAXTER BUILDING CONTINUE AS THOSE BLAMING REED RICHARDS FOR THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC GATHER AT THE BASE OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S OPERATIONS HERE IN NEW YORK CITY.

SO FAR, NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO GET BEYOND THE BUILDING'S DEFENSE MECHANISMS, AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR SEEM TO HAVE GONE INTO HIDING.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING. WHY ARE THE FF HIDING?

THEY'RE NOT.

THEY'RE NOT AT ALL. THEY'RE TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO END THIS MADNESS.

THAT'S WHY YOU ARE HERE, DAVID. I THINK YOU CAN HELP THEM.

WHAT?



BUT I... HOW COULD I HELP THEM, DAREDEVIL? THEY HELP EVERYONE... I'M JUST... I'M JUST... DAVID.

I'LL NEVER BE A HELP TO ANYONE.



YOU KNOW, KID, I CAN PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS TELL WHEN SOMEONE IS LYING.

EXCEPT, OF COURSE, WHEN THEY'RE LYING TO THEMSELVES.



LISTEN, DAVID, WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU TO THE BAXTER BUILDING, AND REED WILL BE ABLE TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT. THAT'S FOR CERTAIN. HE ALWAYS DOES.



AND MR. FANTASTIC ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES, RIGHT?



HE DOES.

I WATCH PETER... I CAN'T BELIEVE I GET TO CALL HIM PETER... PULL DOWN HIS MASK.

IT'S ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING THINGS I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE.



SEE YOU LATER, MAY.

YEAH. LATER, DAVID.

I THINK I'M GOING TO BE REALLY GOOD FRIENDS WITH SPIDER-MAN'S DAUGHTER. ESPECIALLY AFTER I TALK TO MR. FANTASTIC.



I DON'T KNOW WHY EVERYONE'S SO UPSET. YOU ALL LOOK LIKE ME NOW. WELCOME TO THE PARTY.

THAT WAS THE LAST WORD FROM THE FANTASTIC FOUR, RECORDED ALMOST A MONTH AGO.



WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE, I SAW A STONE GUY AS TALL AS A BUILDING ATTACKED BY A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WITH POWERS. I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE COULD STOP HIM.

AND THEN EVEN MORE MUTANTS ATTACKED. AND MORE AFTER THAT. FINALLY, I COULDN'T EVEN SEE HIM. AND THEY PULLED HIM DOWN.



IS THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S HEADQUARTERS GOING TO BE LIKE THAT? IS IT GOING TO BE PULLED DOWN?

I DON'T KNOW. SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T CARRY ANY MORE MYSELF. I...



THAT'S ENOUGH, PETER.

THIS IS REED RICHARDS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT, DAVID. HE SAVED US ALL FROM GALACTUS. PRETTY SURE HE CAN SAVE US FROM OURSELVES.



NOW WHO'S LYING TO THEMSELVES?

THE PROBLEM WE FACE IS GETTING INTO THE BAXTER BUILDING AND PAST ITS DEFENSES.

REED PROBABLY GOT RID OF VISUAL RECOGNITION FEATURES LAST TIME THE SKRULLS INVADED. OR MAYBE THE TIME BEFORE THAT. OR THE TIME BEFORE...



WHY DON'T YOU GUYS JUST FIGHT THAT MOB? BEAT 'EM UP?



BECAUSE THEY'RE OUR FRIENDS. THEY'RE PEOPLE WE USED TO FIGHT FOR. THAT HASN'T CHANGED.

WE HAVEN'T CHANGED.

RIGHT, PETER?

PETER IGNORES THE QUESTION. OR AT LEAST PRETENDS HE DIDN'T HEAR IT.



SPIDER-MAN
EXPLAINS THAT
REED USED TO
HAVE ENTRANCES
AT CERTAIN
LEVELS ALONG
THE BUILDING...

...EXITS AND ENTRANCES
FOR THE FF HELI-CARS
AND ROCKETS. PROBABLY
FOR THE HUMAN TORCH
TOO. HE CAN FLY.

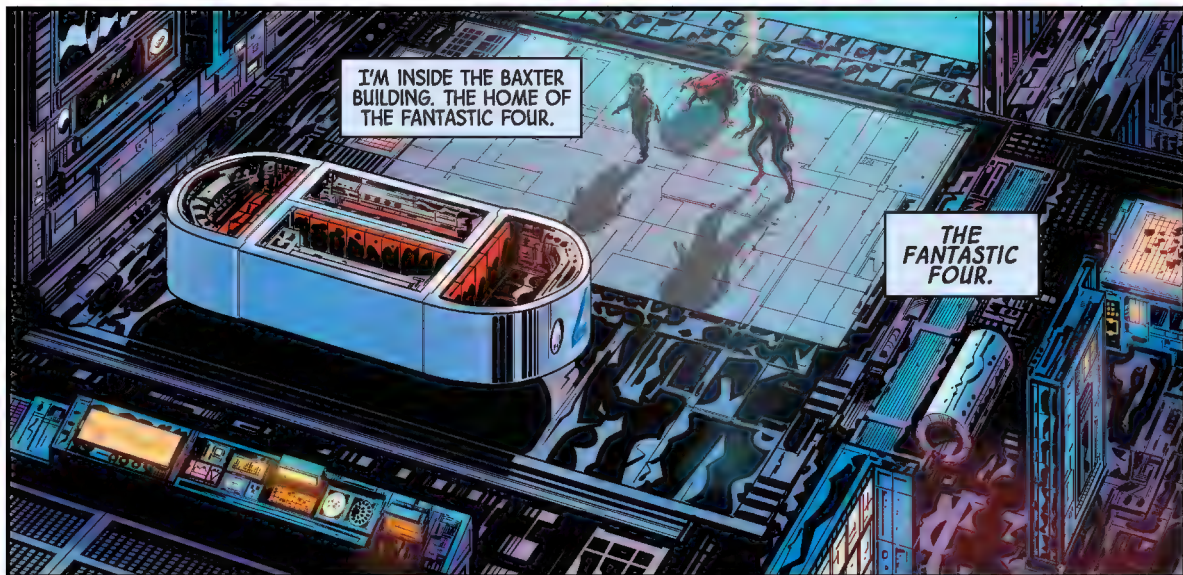


SWINGING WAS
AWFUL THE FIRST
TIME. THIS WAS
EVEN WORSE.

ESPECIALLY THE
LANDING PART.

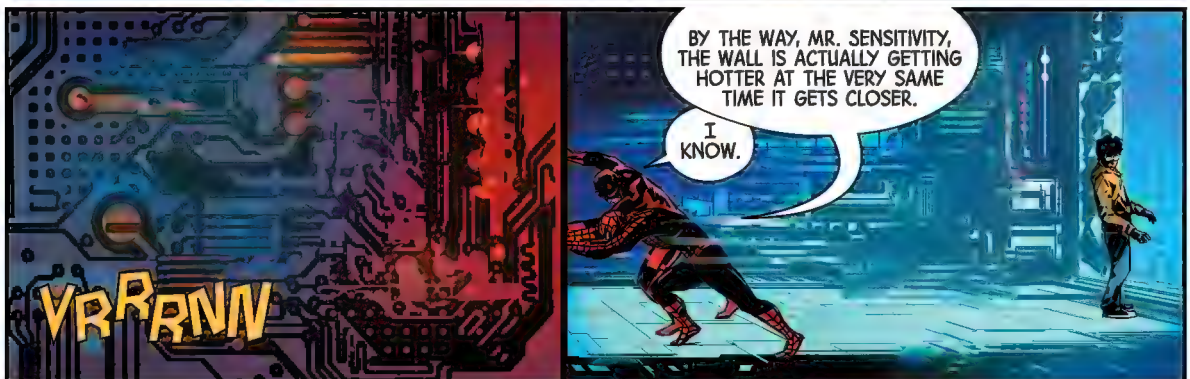
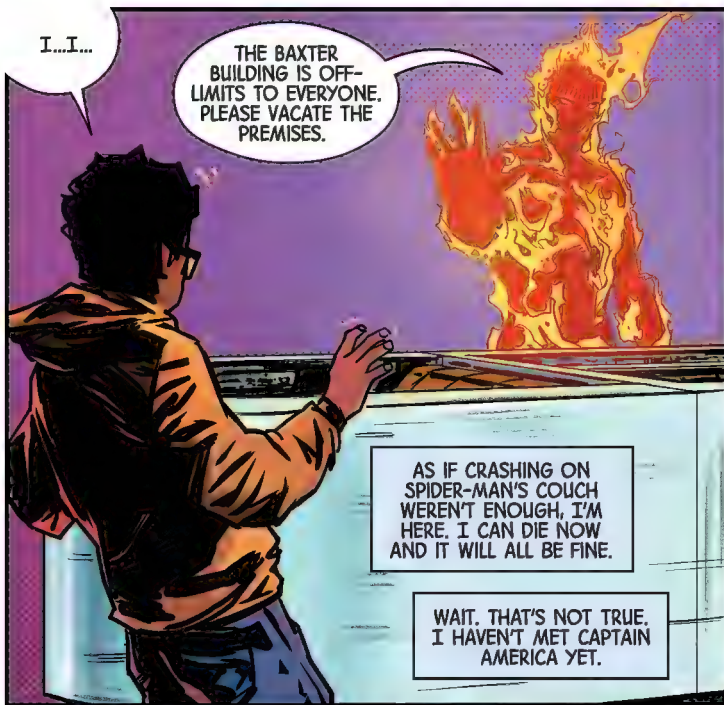


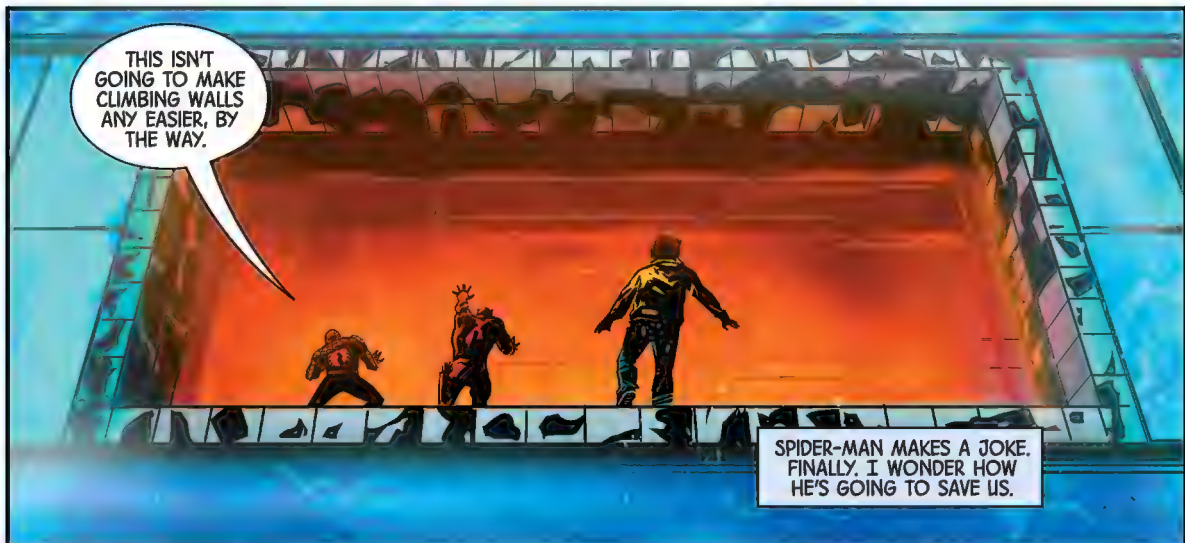
DON'T
WORRY,
DAVID.



I'M INSIDE THE BAXTER
BUILDING. THE HOME OF
THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

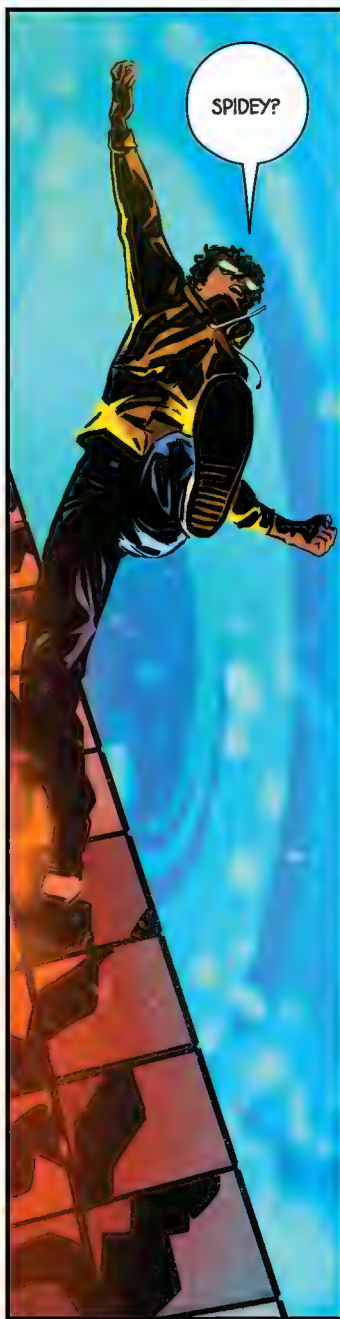
THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR.





THIS ISN'T
GOING TO MAKE
CLIMBING WALLS
ANY EASIER, BY
THE WAY.

SPIDER-MAN MAKES A JOKE.
FINALLY, I WONDER HOW
HE'S GOING TO SAVE US.



SPIDEY?



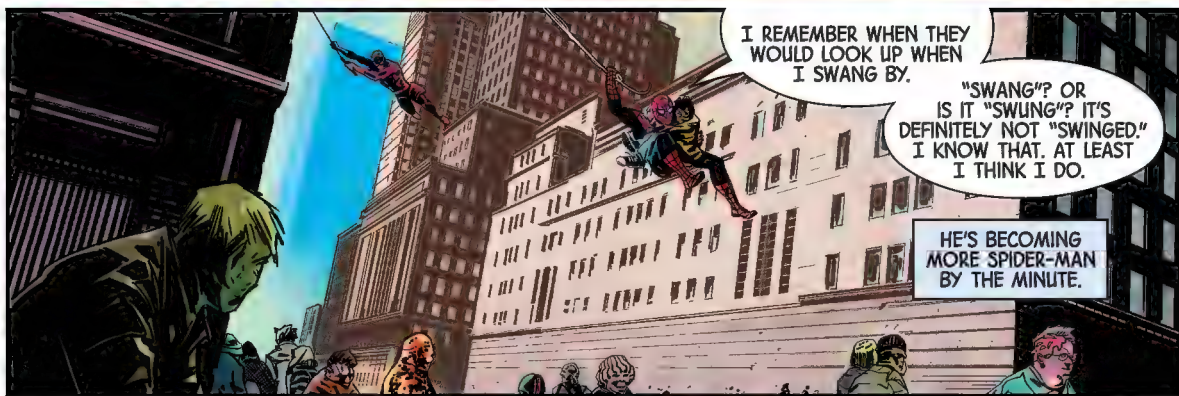
AAAAAAGHHHHH!!!



DON'T USE
YOUR WEB,
PETER.

I'MGONNA
DIE!MGONNA
DIE!MGONNA
DIE...

WHAT I REALIZED IN
THE BAXTER BUILDING--
I HAVEN'T MET CAP YET,
REMEMBER? IT'S NOT
MY TIME TO DIE. I...



WE MAKE OUR
WAY TO
BLEECKER STREET.

LOOKS LIKE
THE DOC HAS
HIS OWN WAY OF
DEFENDING HIS
HOME.

MINDLESS ONES.
CHANCES ARE THEY
WON'T RECOGNIZE
US EITHER.

I MISS THE
DAYS WHEN WALKING
THESE STREETS PROVIDED
THE GREATEST OF
PLEASURES.

IT'S A
GHOST!

DOC.

PLEASE, MY
FRIENDS, APPEARING
BEFORE YOU IN MY ASTRAL
FORM TAKES SOME
CONCENTRATION.

DAREDEVIL ALWAYS SEEMS TO SEE
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE DOES.
LIKE IN THE BAXTER BUILDING. BUT
NOT HERE. NOT NOW.

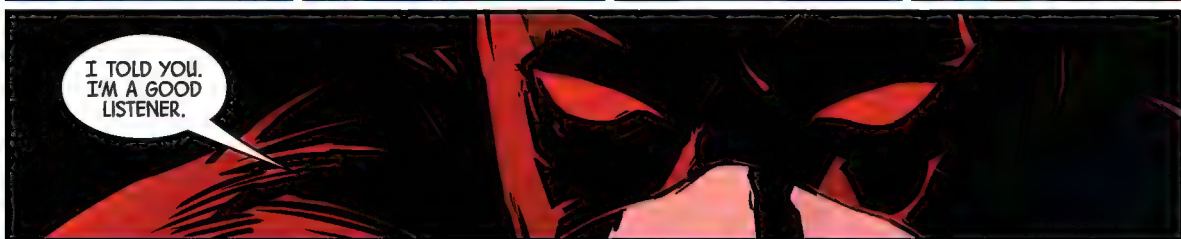
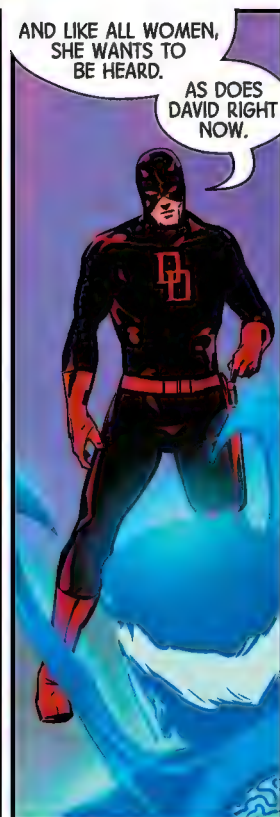
DAVID, I'D LIKE
TO INTRODUCE TO
YOU ONE OF THE
GREATEST HEROES I
HAVE EVER
KNOWN.

THIS IS DOCTOR
STEPHEN STRANGE. A
MASTER SORCERER.

SOME HEROES
CLIMB WALLS. HE
STANDS ON ONE AND
GUARDS AND PROTECTS
US FROM THREATS FROM
A MILLION DIFFERENT
WORLDS.

THANK YOU,
PETER. BUT PLEASE
DON'T SAY ANY MORE.
WORDS HAVE POWER. AND
THE WALLS YOU SPEAK OF,
THEY ARE BECOMING
THINNER ALL THE
TIME.







SOON. VERY
SOON, DAVID.
YOU'LL SAVE EVERY
ONE OF US.

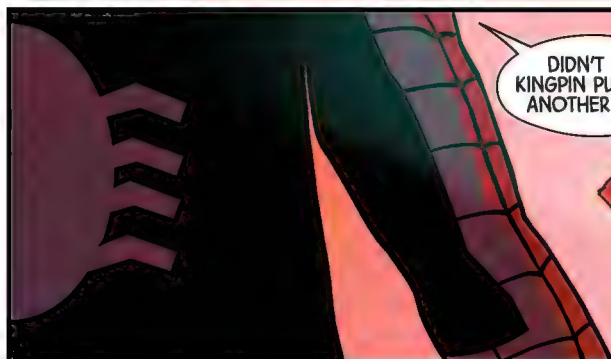
YOU
KEEP SAYING
THAT.



AREN'T
YOU
AFRAID?



NO. HOPE
WINS OUT OVER
FEAR EVERY TIME.
A MAN WITH HOPE
MIGHT NOT BE A
MAN WITHOUT
FEAR, BUT HE'S
CLOSE.



DIDN'T THE
KINGPIN PUT THAT
ANOTHER WAY?



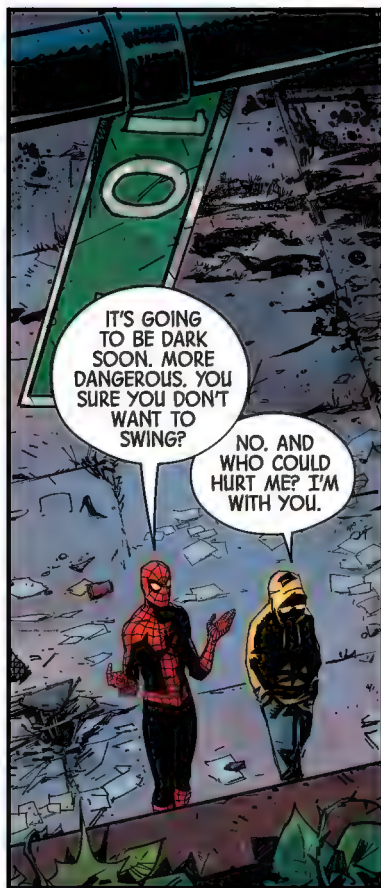
AS IF A
CRIMINAL LIKE THE
KINGPIN EVER KNEW
WHAT IT IS LIKE
TO HOPE.



OR TO
BE WITHOUT
FEAR.

WOW.





IT'S GOING TO BE DARK SOON. MORE DANGEROUS. YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO SWING?

NO. AND WHO COULD HURT ME? I'M WITH YOU.



WE WALK. WE TALK. AND IT'S ALMOST LIKE THE WORLD IS NORMAL AGAIN.

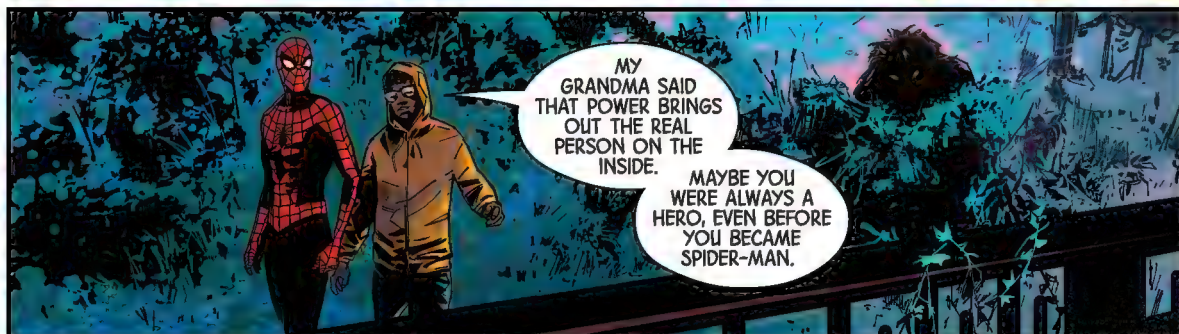
HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO NOT HAVE PARENTS. HE TELLS ME ABOUT HIS AUNT AND UNCLE.

I TELL HIM ABOUT MY GRANDMA.



MY UNCLE USED TO TELL ME THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENS IN A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE HAS GREAT POWER, THOUGH.



MY GRANDMA SAID THAT POWER BRINGS OUT THE REAL PERSON ON THE INSIDE.

MAYBE YOU WERE ALWAYS A HERO, EVEN BEFORE YOU BECAME SPIDER-MAN.

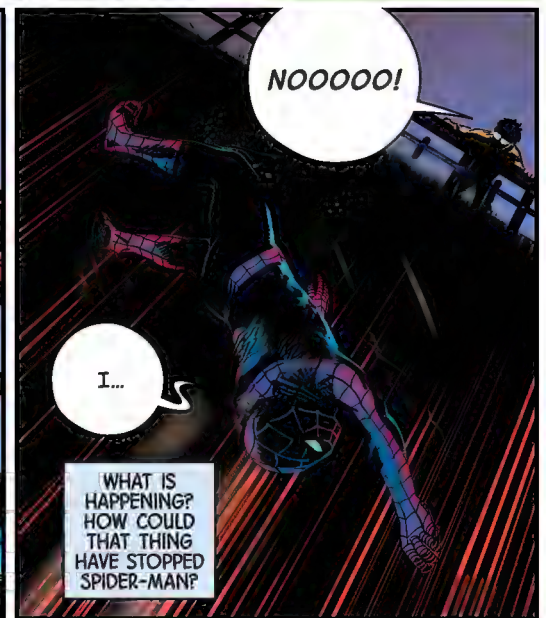
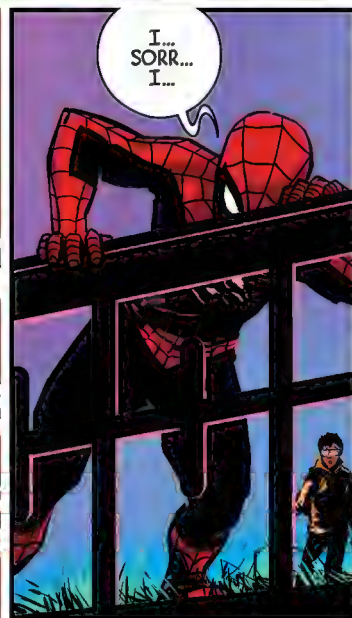
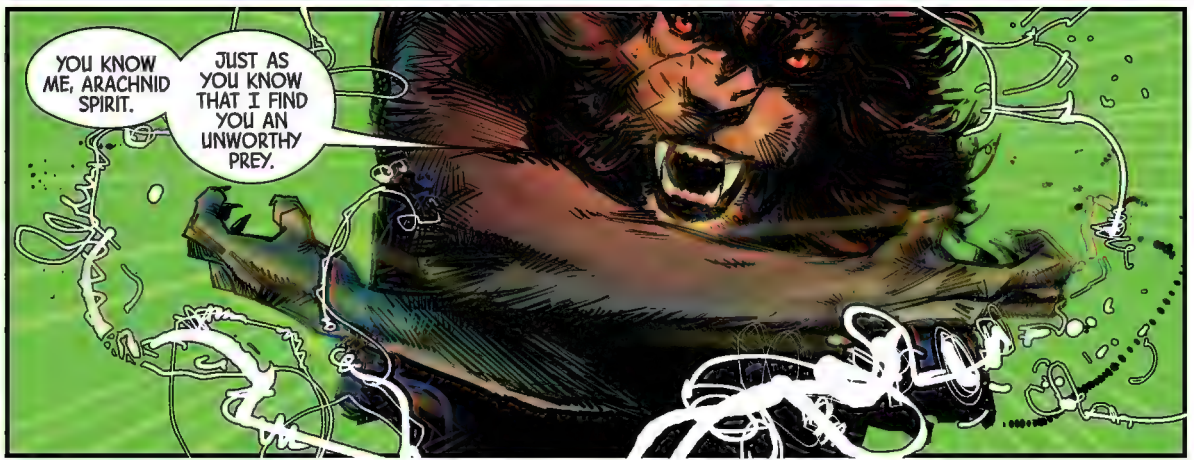
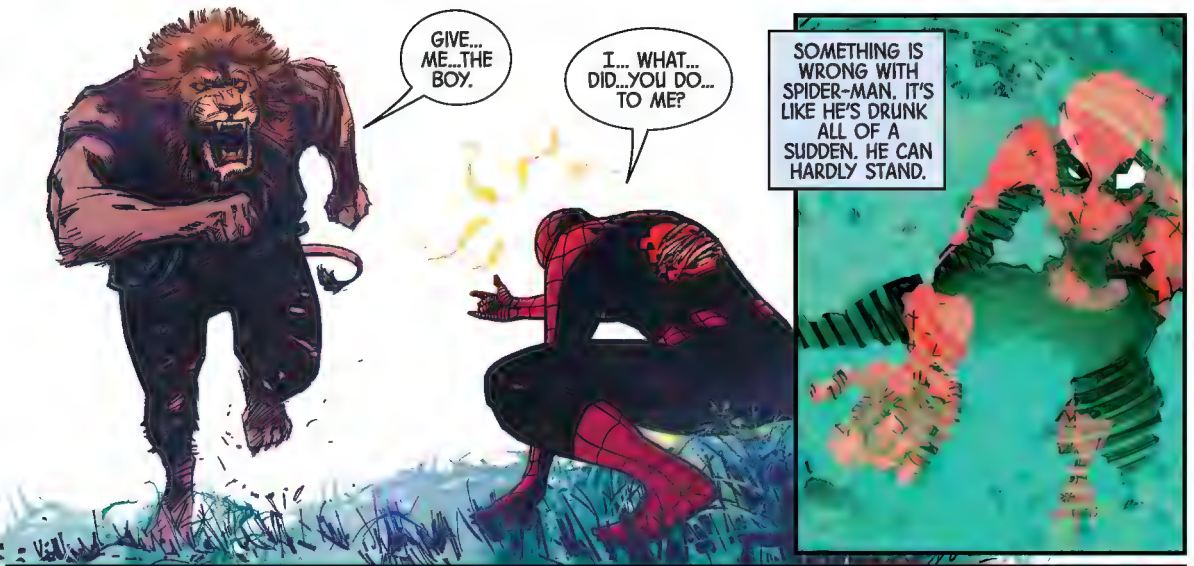


THAT'S A REALLY SPECTACULAR THING TO SAY, DAVID. I WISH IT WERE TRUE. BUT I WASN'T. I...



GET BEHIND ME!

HE HAS A SPIDER-SENSE. IT'S LIKE A VERY SPECIFIC PARANOIA THAT'S ALWAYS RIGHT. BUT IT'S SLOWER NOW. TOO MUCH TROUBLE IN THE WORLD.







I DON'T KNOW
HOW LONG I
WAS ASLEEP.

THE LION THING
SCRATCHED ME.
HE...DRUGGED ME.



SO...MAYBE
SPIDER-MAN IS
ALIVE TOO.

OKAY, DAVID. THINK.
LOTS OF PLACES TO
HIDE IN A PLACE LIKE
THIS IF I CAN GET
AWAY. I...THINK I'M
IN...A MUSEUM NOW.



PHOTOS BY
PHIL SHELDON

THE TOXINS
SHOULD HAVE
WORN OFF OF
YOU BY NOW, CHILD.
YOU WERE ONLY
SCRATCHED.

SO STOP
PRETENDING
YOU'RE ASLEEP...
AND OPEN
YOUR EYES.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
HERE...THAT I
WANT YOU
TO SEE.





I'M
CERTAIN...
THAT YOU HAVE
REALIZED...THAT
SPIDER-MAN IS
NOT DEAD.



WHEN
HE COMES
TO RESCUE YOU,
IT WILL BE
TOO LATE.

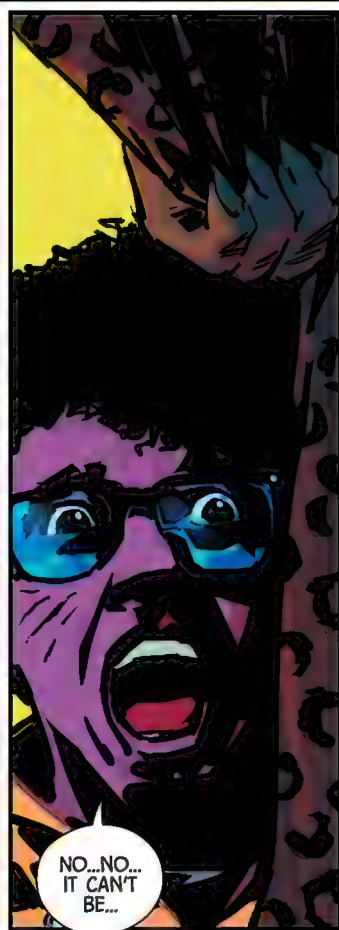


TOO LATE.
BUT FOR
NOW...

...THERE IS
ONE TROPHY IN
PARTICULAR I
WANT YOU TO
SEE.



I HEARD...
THAT YOU
WERE...WHAT'S
THE EXPRESSION...
YES. YOU ARE
A FAN.



NO...NO...
IT CAN'T
BE...

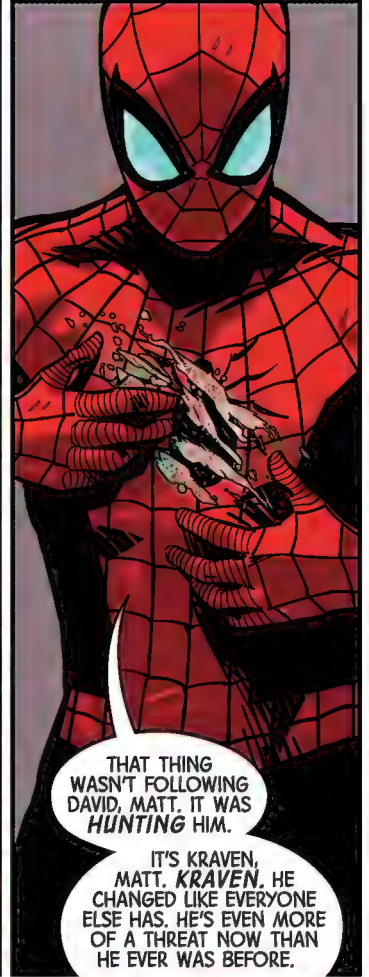


CAP?



NOW...
ANYONE...WHO
WANTS TO MEET
CAPTAIN AMERICA
WILL HAVE...AN
OPPORTUNITY.

IT WAS
ONLY RIGHT,
OF COURSE, THAT
HE WOULD BE THE
FIRST. THE FIRST
TO MARK THE END
OF AN AGE.

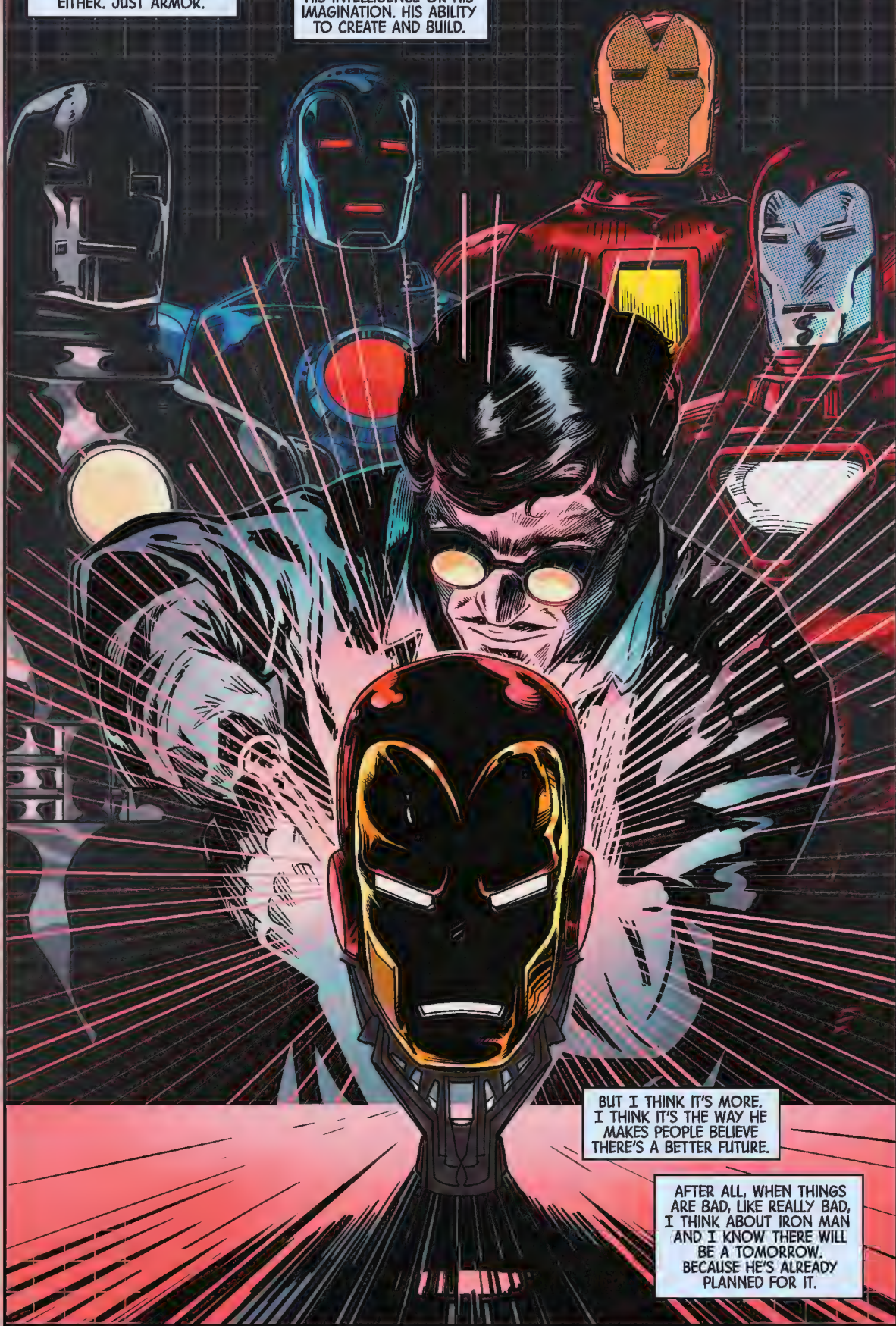


FOUR



I WISH I COULD SAY THAT
I WAS LIKE IRON MAN. HE
DOESN'T HAVE POWERS
EITHER. JUST ARMOR.

SOME PEOPLE MIGHT
SAY HIS TRUE POWER IS
HIS INTELLIGENCE OR HIS
IMAGINATION. HIS ABILITY
TO CREATE AND BUILD.



BUT I THINK IT'S MORE.
I THINK IT'S THE WAY HE
MAKES PEOPLE BELIEVE
THERE'S A BETTER FUTURE.

AFTER ALL, WHEN THINGS
ARE BAD, LIKE REALLY BAD,
I THINK ABOUT IRON MAN
AND I KNOW THERE WILL
BE A TOMORROW.
BECAUSE HE'S ALREADY
PLANNED FOR IT.





IT WAS
A GOOD
HUNT.

BUT HIS
SCENT WAS
UNDENIABLE.



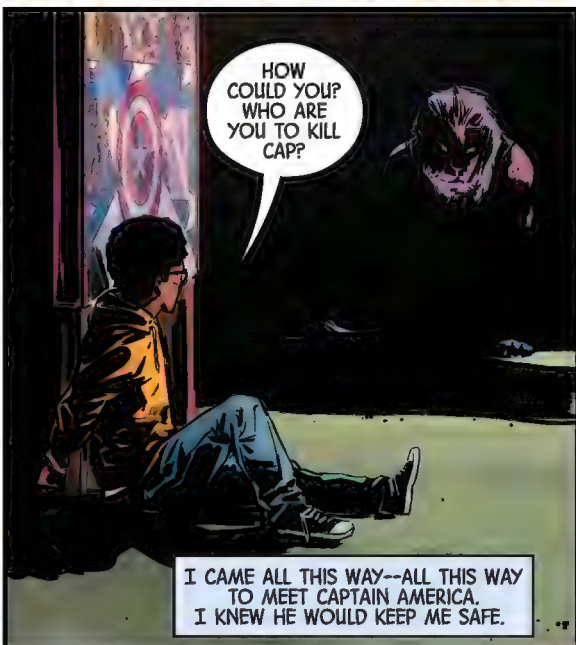
ALL CREATURES
HAVE A SCENT, CHILD.
HE COULD HAVE BEEN
MILES FROM ME, AND I
WOULD STILL HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO
FIND HIM.



TO HIS
CREDIT, HE DID
NOT CRY WHEN
I KILLED HIM.

HE DID
NOT MAKE
EXCUSES. NOR
DID HE SHOW
REGRET.

I DOUBT
VERY MUCH
THAT THOSE WHO
FOLLOW HIM WILL
MAKE SUCH WORTHY
TROPHIES.



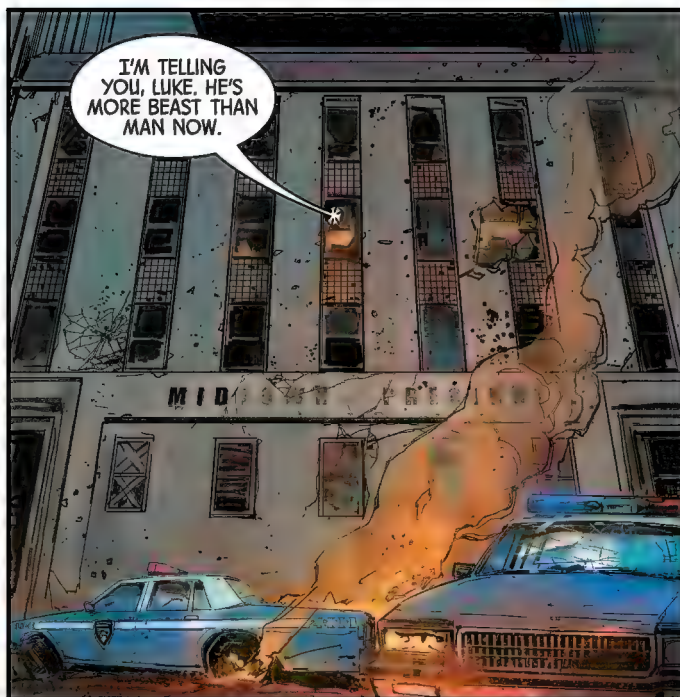
HOW
COULD YOU?
WHO ARE
YOU TO KILL
CAP?

I CAME ALL THIS WAY--ALL THIS WAY
TO MEET CAPTAIN AMERICA.
I KNEW HE WOULD KEEP ME SAFE.



WHO AM
I? I...WAS ONCE
THE HUNTER. SERGEI
KRAVINOFF. KRAVEN.
PERHAPS IT IS LIFE'S
CRUEL IRONY
THAT I HAVE
BECOME...

...THE VERY
BEAST I ONCE
HUNTED.



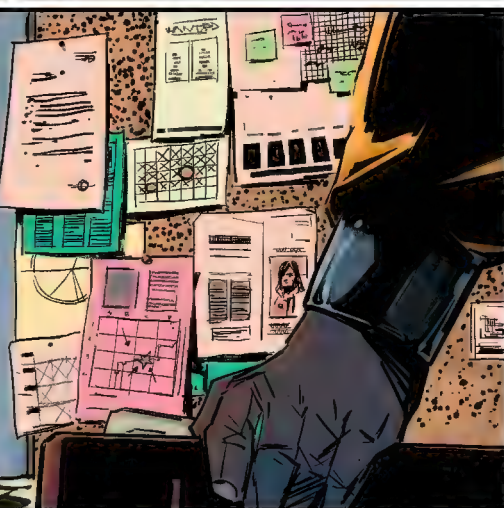
I'M TELLING YOU, LUKE. HE'S MORE BEAST THAN MAN NOW.



KRAVEN TOOK THE KID. AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW.



IT'S MY FAULT, LUKE. MY SPIDER-SENSE HASN'T BEEN...RIGHT... SINCE I LOST MARY JANE. SINCE MY IDENTITY WAS REVEALED.



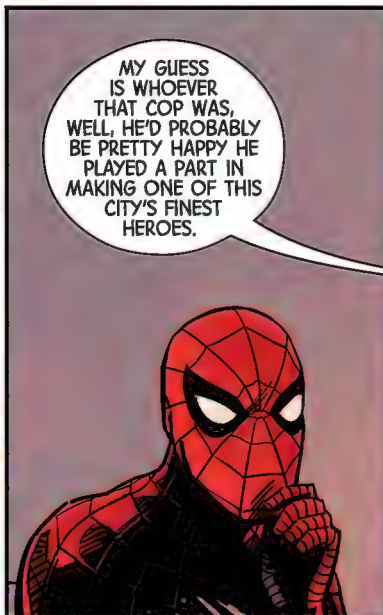
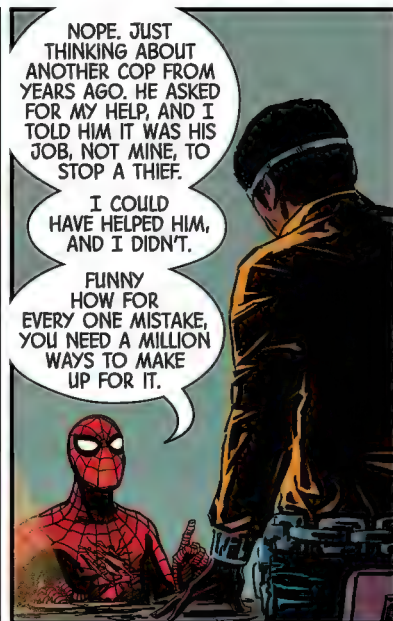
EVERYTHING SEEMS SO UPSIDE DOWN NOW. EVEN FOR ME.

SO YOU WANT ME TO JOIN THIS HUNT FOR THE HUNTER? OF COURSE. NO QUESTION.



AND IT'S NOT JUST YOU, PETER. WHOLE WORLD'S GONE CRAZY.

THERE NEEDS TO BE A SENSE OF LAW IN THIS CITY, THOUGH. THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO MEET HERE.





"I TALK TO
DAREDEVIL."

MATT,
IT'S PETER.
LUKE CAGE HASN'T
HEARD ANYTHING.
BUT HE'S JOINING
THE HUNT.

JUST IN
CASE YOU WEREN'T
EAVESDROPPING.



HOPING
YOU ARE
RIGHT
NOW.

I NEED
YOU TO FIND HIM.
IT CAN'T BE UP TO
ME. THIS IS ALL JUST
TOO MUCH TO
HANDLE. IT'S...



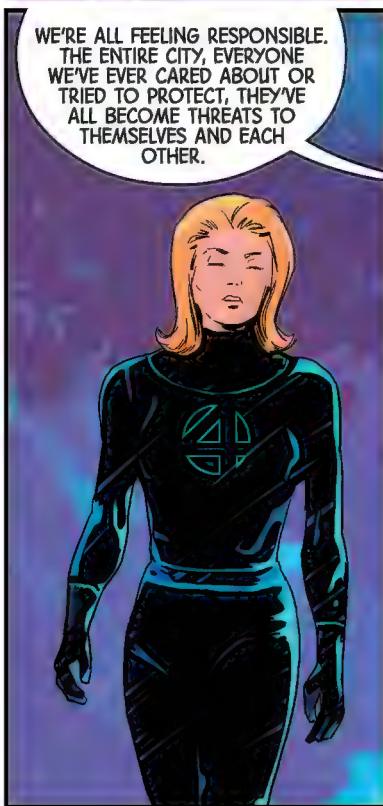
OH,
MAN.



POOR
IT.

THESE
AREN'T GOOD
DAYS FOR GIANTS,
MATT. OR THE
LITTLE GUY.

DAVID.
OF COURSE
HIS NAME IS
DAVID.





I WISH YOU COULD ANSWER ME FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE, DD. I WISH YOU HAD BLACK BOLT'S VOICE AND NOT JUST SUPER-HEARING.

OKAY, MAYBE NOT BLACK BOLT'S VOICE. THIS CITY HAS TOO MUCH TO REBUILD AS IT IS.

I JUST WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO TELL ME THAT THIS DOESN'T ALSO HAVE TO FALL ON ME.



YOU KNOW, MAYBE IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT YOU'RE NOT HERE. I KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD TELL ME IF YOU WERE.

YOU WOULD WANT SPIDER-MAN TO COME TO HIS SENSES AND TO ACTUALLY *USE* HIS SENSES.

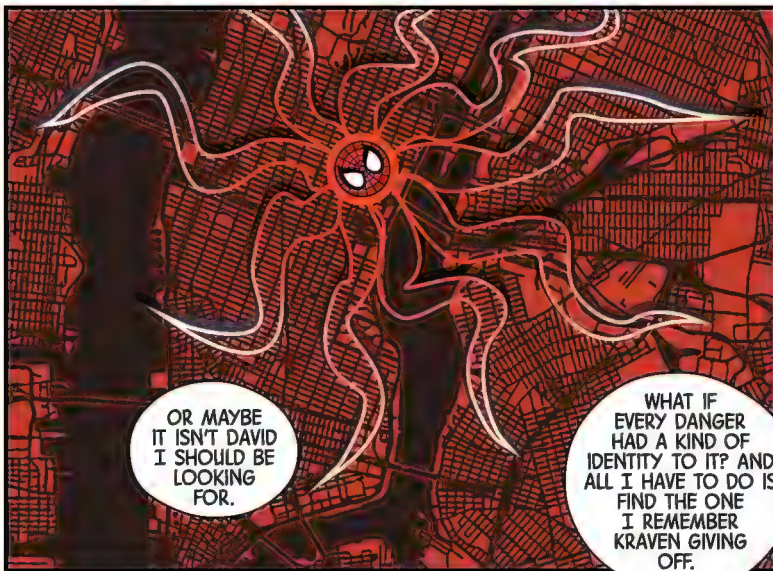


YOU WOULD TELL ME, LIKE YOU HAVE SO MANY TIMES BEFORE, THAT MY SPIDER-SENSE WAS SIMILAR TO YOUR OWN RADAR SENSE, IN A WAY.



THAT I COULD USE MY RANGER-DANGER ABILITIES TO REACH OUT, TO SEE BEYOND WHAT IS JUST A DANGER TO ME...

...AND TO SEE OTHERS IN DANGER...TO SEE DAVID IN DANGER.



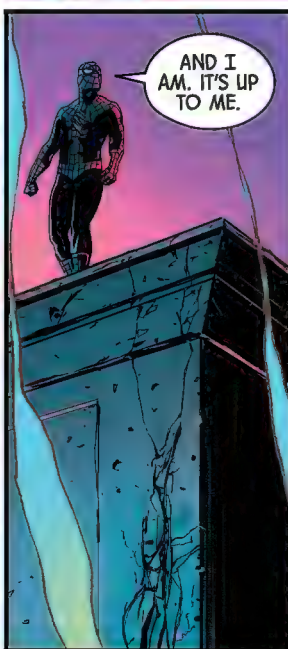
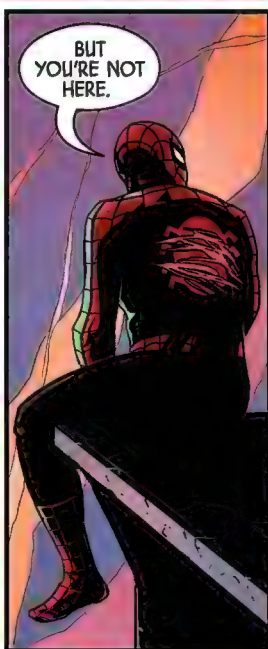
OR MAYBE IT ISN'T DAVID I SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR.

WHAT IF EVERY DANGER HAD A KIND OF IDENTITY TO IT? AND ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE ONE I REMEMBER KRAVEN GIVING OFF.

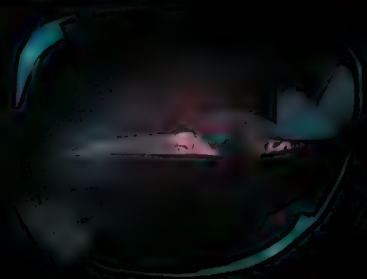


SOMETHING UNIQUE. LIKE A THUMBPRINT THAT STANDS OUT IN A CITY OF DANGERS.

LIKE A SCENT.



NO MATTER HOW LONG
I KEEP MY EYES CLOSED
AND TRY TO WISH IT AWAY,
NOTHING HAS CHANGED.



CAPTAIN
AMERICA
IS DEAD.

SO MAYBE...I HAVE TO
RESCUE MYSELF. WHEN
THE SCABBING FIRST
STARTED, AND DAD AND
I NEEDED TO BOARD
UP THE HOUSE,
DAD INSISTED WE USE
NEW WOOD. IT'S
STRONGER, HE SAID.

THIS IS OLD WOOD,
AND IT'S STARTING TO
SPLINTER. THANKS, DAD.



IT'S WORKING. THE
SPLINTERS ARE CUTTING
THE ROPES. I CAN GET
FREE. THAT'S WHAT A
HERO WOULD DO--WHAT
CAP WOULD HAVE DONE.



THE LION-THING'S IN
THE OTHER ROOM,
STUFFING ANOTHER
TROPHY, I THINK.

WHAT IF IT'S
SPIDER-MAN? WHAT
IF SPIDER-MAN TRIED
TO RESCUE ME AND
GOT CAUGHT? GOT
CLAWED WITH
POISON AGAIN?



I DON'T WANT
TO HAVE TO
TELL HIS DAUGHTER
THAT. OR THAT
HE'S DEAD BECAUSE
HE TRIED TO RESCUE
ME. IT WOULD
BE MY FAULT.



I REMEMBER
HOW HARD IT WAS
FOR GRANDMA
TO TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED TO MOM
AND DAD, AND
THAT WASN'T HER
FAULT AT ALL.



THERE ARE LOTS OF
WEAPONS IN HERE,
LOTS OF TROPHIES.
IT'LL SERVE KRAVEN
RIGHT TO BE KILLED
BY ONE OF THEM.



I'M GOING TO AVENGE
THE GREATEST AVENGER
THERE EVER WAS--
I DON'T CARE IF I DIE.



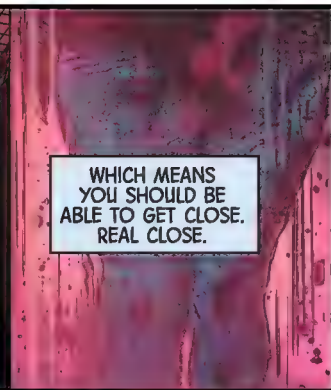
AND IF YOU'RE
DEAD TOO,
SPIDER-MAN,
I'M REALLY
SORRY.

I'LL BE
AVENGING
YOU, TOO.



I'VE NEVER
FIRED A GUN
BEFORE.

DON'T BE DUMB, DAVID.
JUST AIM AND SHOOT.
YOU'RE GOOD AT HIDING,
WHICH MEANS YOU'RE
GOOD AT BEING QUIET,
GOOD AT SNEAKING.



WHICH MEANS
YOU SHOULD BE
ABLE TO GET CLOSE.
REAL CLOSE.



SO CLOSE
YOU CAN'T
MISS.



CHILD?

HE KNOWS
I'M HERE.



I PANIC AND FALL
BACKWARD. JUST
LIKE I DID IN THE
GROCERY STORE.

SPIDER-MAN
RESCUED ME
THEN. BUT HE'S
NOT HERE NOW.



PULL
THE TRIGGER,
DAVID. PULL THE
TRIGGER.

AND FINALLY, WHEN I
CAN FEEL THE HEAT OF
HIS SALIVA AND THE SMELL
OF DEAD MEAT, I FIRE.

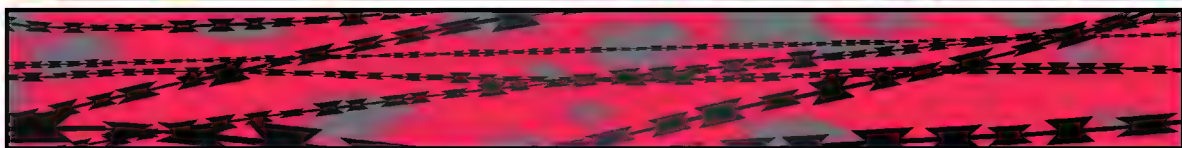




SPIDER-MAN!

HEY, DAVID. WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

OF COURSE YOU WERE. THAT'S WHY I WAS PREPARED.



DAVID?



BLOOD?

RAZOR WIRE. TO STRUGGLE EVEN A LITTLE IS TO BE CUT, SPIDER-MAN.

SO PLEASE, MY OLD FOE, GIVE IT YOUR ALL. MAYBE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REGROW THE APPENDAGES YOU LOSE THIS DAY.



DON'T WORRY, SPIDER-MAN, I'M GOING TO SHOOT HIM AND I'M GOING TO KILL HIM.

DON'T KILL HIM, DAVID. DON'T DO THAT.



CHILD, I AM GOING TO KILL SPIDER-MAN. HE'LL BE NEXT ON MY WALL OF HEADS. **FIRE.**



DAVID, PLEASE. DAREDEVIL-- HE TAUGHT ME A NEW WAY TO USE MY SPIDER-SENSE. IT ALWAYS WARNS ME ABOUT DANGER.

BUT I'VE LEARNED HOW TO USE IT SO THAT NOW I CAN ALSO KNOW IF SOMEONE ELSE IS IN DANGER.

YOU'RE NOT IN DANGER, DAVID.



YES, I AM. MAYBE IT'S WHATEVER VENOM HE USED TO DULL YOUR SENSES. MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T SENSE DANGER.

BUT HE KILLED CAP.



CAP'S DEAD? WHO SAID CAP'S DEAD?

HIS HEAD IS ON A WALL OVER THERE.

BE A MAN AND SHOOT ME.



I WAS THE MAN OF MY HOUSE WHEN MY PARENTS WERE KILLED BY BEASTS LIKE YOU.

I TOOK CARE OF MY GRANDMA AND MY SISTER. I GOT THEM THEIR FOOD. I...



ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO BE A HERO.



ONLY A MAN
SHOULD PULL
THAT TRIGGER. AND
YOU ARE THE
LAST ONE.

LISTEN, DAVID.
KRAVEN IS TRYING
TO GET YOU TO KILL
HIM. HE'S TRIED TO KILL
HIMSELF BEFORE. IT
DIDN'T STICK.
LISTEN...



...FROM WHERE HE
STANDS, HE COULD KILL
YOU IN DOZENS OF WAYS.
HE'S GOADING YOU.
THINK ABOUT IT...HE HAD
A TRAP FOR ME, BUT
YOU ESCAPED SO EASILY!



THIS IS ALL
A TRAP FOR
YOU, DAVID,
YOU.

YOU DON'T
THINK I'VE HAD
CHANCES TO KILL
BEFORE? WANTED
REVENGE
BEFORE?

IT'S LIKE
WHAT YOUR
GRANDMA SAID
ABOUT POWER.
THE GUN IN YOUR
HAND WILL SHOW
THE WORLD WHO
AND WHAT YOU
REALLY ARE.



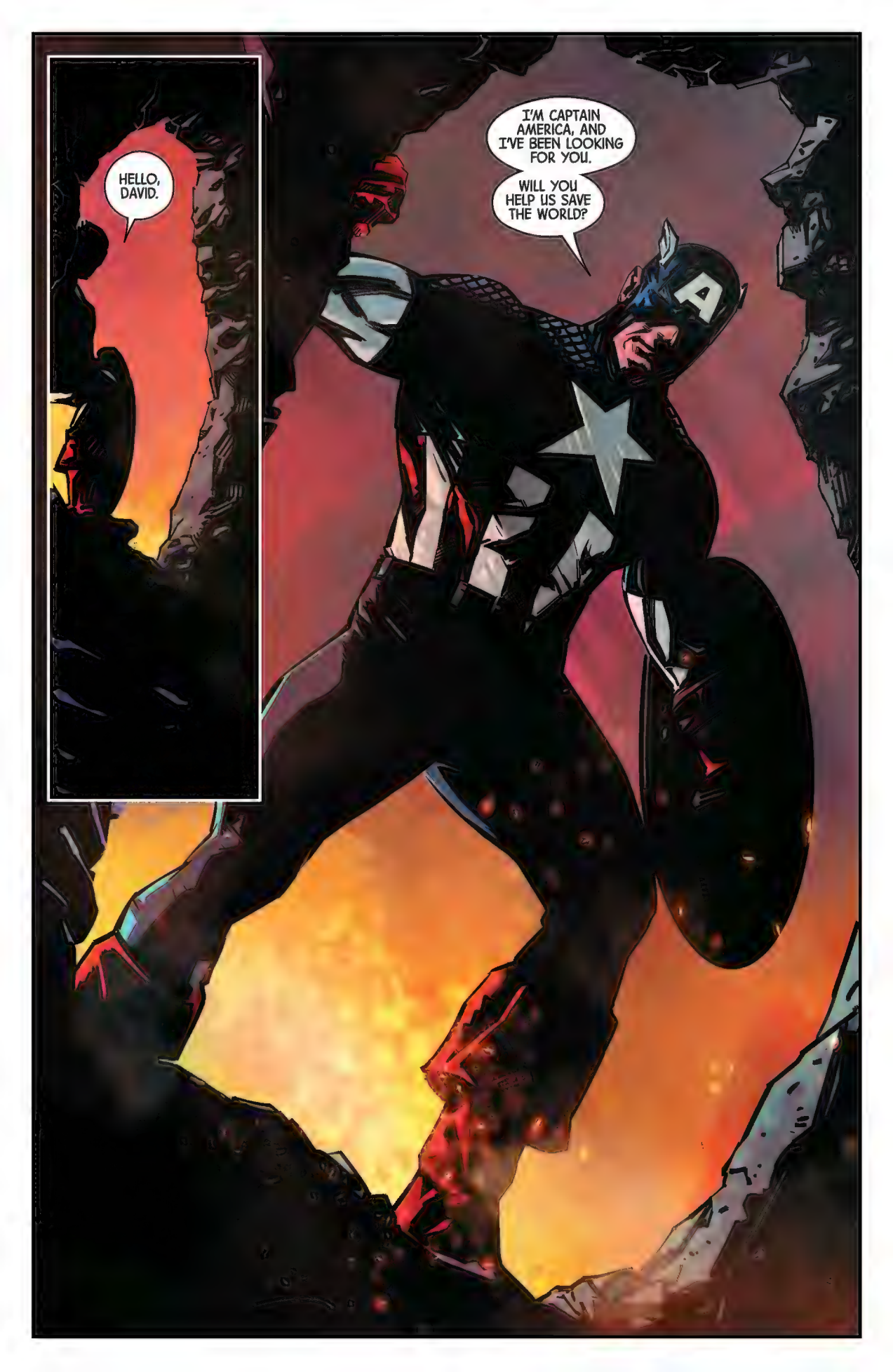
BUT
HE KILLED
CAP.

I DID! I
KILLED HIM THE
VERY DAY I WAS
HUNTING YOU IN
THE RAIN AND
LOST YOUR
SCENT.

I HEARD
YOU PRAYING
TO HIM, HOPING HE
WOULD SAVE YOU. I
AM NOT SO MUCH A
BEAST THAT I COULD
NOT ENJOY...THE
IRONY OF THE
MOMENT.



HE DIDN'T
KILL CAPTAIN
AMERICA.

A full-page comic book illustration of Captain America standing in a dark, rocky landscape. The background is a bright, fiery orange and yellow, suggesting a volcanic or hellish environment. Captain America is wearing his iconic suit, which is dark with a large white star on the chest and a white 'A' on the helmet. He is holding his shield, which is dark with a white star and a red, white, and blue design. He is looking towards the left, where a speech bubble indicates he is addressing someone named David. Another speech bubble on the right shows him introducing himself as Captain America and asking for help to save the world.

HELLO,
DAVID.

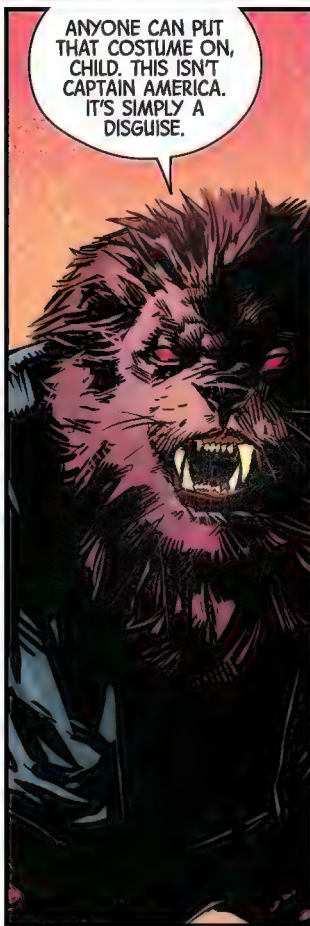
I'M CAPTAIN
AMERICA, AND
I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FOR YOU.

WILL YOU
HELP US SAVE
THE WORLD?

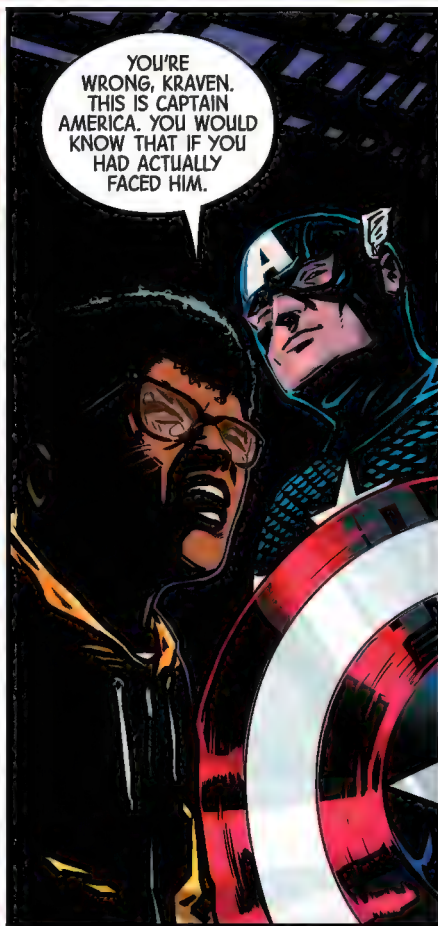


BUT...BUT
THERE'S A HEAD
ON THE...

MY GUESS
IS THAT KRAVEN
TRIED TO USE YOUR
LOVE OF HEROES, AND
ME IN PARTICULAR,
TO GET YOU TO BE
SOMETHING OTHER
THAN A HERO.



ANYONE CAN PUT
THAT COSTUME ON,
CHILD. THIS ISN'T
CAPTAIN AMERICA.
IT'S SIMPLY A
DISGUISE.



YOU'RE
WRONG, KRAVEN.
THIS IS CAPTAIN
AMERICA. YOU WOULD
KNOW THAT IF YOU
HAD ACTUALLY
FACED HIM.



THE LAST MAN ON EARTH SHOULD FULFILL HIS PURPOSE AND KILL THE BEAST. IT IS HIS HONOR TO DO SO, HIS RIGHT.



PERHAPS YOU WILL KILL ME TO SAVE THE CHILD.

ISN'T THAT WHAT HEROES DO?



SHUT UP, KRAVEN.



IT IS ONLY RIGHT...THAT THE LAST MAN...



KRAVEN TRIES TO LIFT A KNIFE AGAINST ME. IRON MAN DOESN'T LET HIM.



THAT WAS REPULSIVE.

CAN SOMEONE GET ME OUT OF THIS THING?

AND MAYBE GET ME A BAND-AID? OR A BOX OF BAND-AIDS? MAYBE A LOT OF BOXES.

OR MAYBE I CAN HAVE ONE OF HAWKEYE'S ARMS. DOES HE REALLY NEED SIX? I DIDN'T BACK IN THE DAY, BUT NOW I...

DIDN'T YA JUST YAMMER ON ABOUT THERE BEIN' LIMITS TA HOW MUCH YOU CAN TALK?



THANKS, HERC.



CAPTAIN AMERICA.
IT'S CAPTAIN AMERICA.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU WEREN'T DEAD. NO ONE COULD TAKE YOUR LIFE. IT WOULD BE A SACRIFICE OR SOMETHING. NOTHING AS STUPID AS A TRAP.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU BROUGHT SO MANY HEROES TO RESCUE ME.



THAT'S HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE, DAVID.

I HEAR YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT HIDING. PROTECTING YOURSELF IS LIKE WEARING ARMOR. REMEMBER THAT.

IS IRON MAN SAYING I'M ACTUALLY LIKE HIM?



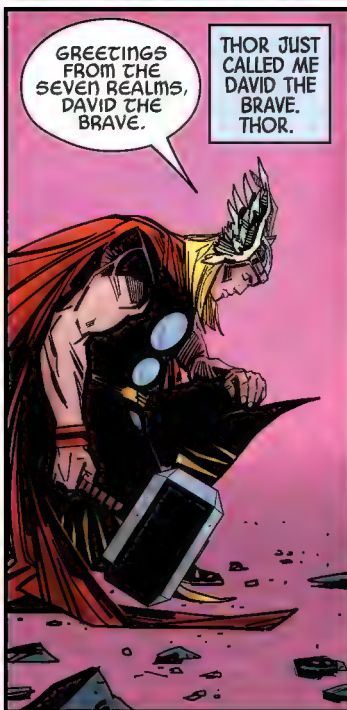
NOW LET ME MAKE SOME INTRODUCTIONS. I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

OF COURSE I HAVE. YOU'RE THE INVISIBLE WOMAN. AND YOU'RE THE THING, AND YOU'RE THE HUMAN TORCH.



IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU, HAWKEYE. YOU'RE THE ONLY HERO I'VE EVER MET WHO'S FILLED THE SHOES OF ALMOST EVERY OTHER AVENGER.

HEY, DAVE.



GREETINGS FROM THE SEVEN REALMS, DAVID THE BRAVE.

THOR JUST CALLED ME DAVID THE BRAVE. THOR.



MEET THE VISION. HE IS ONE OF THE NOBLEST MEN I HAVE EVER MET...BUT A BIT OF A CRIER.

PLEASE, TONY. IT WAS ONE TEAR. AND THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

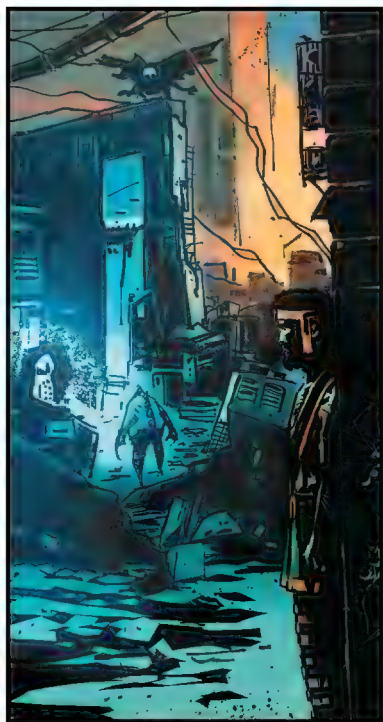
...AND HIS WIFE, THE SCARLET WITCH, THE MOST POWERFUL MUTANT ALIVE.



AND THIS IS LUKE CAGE. HE'S GOT SKIN THAT CAN'T BE BROKEN, SO HE DOESN'T NEED ARMOR.

OR A SHIELD.

AND FINALLY, THERE'S...







CAP'S THE BEST HERO THERE HAS EVER BEEN. HE WASN'T THE FIRST AVENGER, BUT ONCE HE JOINED THEM, CAPTAIN AMERICA BECAME THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE.

A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WHY THE AVENGERS ARE CALLED THE AVENGERS. I THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF CAP.

HE FIGHTS TO BE A SHIELD FOR US ALL, BUT THOSE HE CAN'T SAVE, HE AVENGES. AND HE MAKES CERTAIN THAT THEIR DEATHS WEREN'T IN VAIN. THAT THE LIVES THEY LED AND THE SACRIFICES THEY MADE STILL MATTER WELL AFTER THEY'RE GONE.

IT'S MORE THAN A SOLDIER'S WAY. IT'S THE AMERICAN WAY. BECAUSE ACCORDING TO CAP, EVERY VOICE COUNTS. EVERY LIFE COUNTS.

EVEN MINE.



THE INVISIBLE WOMAN MADE US INVISIBLE SO WE COULD SNEAK INTO THE BAXTER BUILDING.

SNEAK PAST ALL THE MONSTERS THAT WERE TRYING TO GET IN.



IT WAS JUST LIKE OHIO. JUST LIKE HOME. EXCEPT THE FANTASTIC FOUR DON'T NEED MY DAD'S BOARDS AND NAILS TO KEEP THE MONSTERS OUT.

THEY HAVE THE WHOLE BAXTER BUILDING.



WON'T THEY FEEL US PUSHING PAST THEM? THEY KNOW YOU LIVE HERE WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

THAT'S RIGHT, DAVID. THEY'D FEEL US IF WE WERE GOING THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.



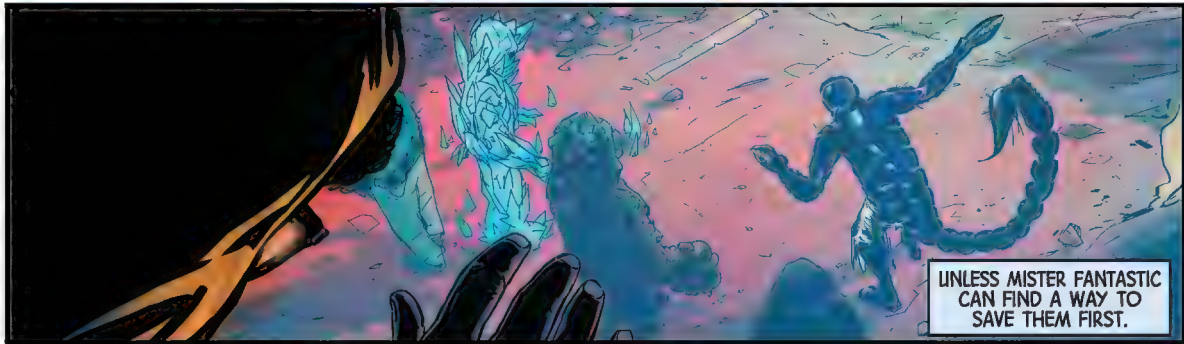
THIS SORT OF MOB MENTALITY IS BREAKING OUT ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

IT'S WHAT PEOPLE DO WHEN THEY ARE AFRAID.



I DIDN'T EXPECT CAP TO BE SAD.

I THINK IT'S MAYBE... BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT HE IS GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT THE VERY PEOPLE HE USED TO FIGHT FOR.



UNLESS MISTER FANTASTIC CAN FIND A WAY TO SAVE THEM FIRST.



REED RICHARDS AND HIS EXPERIMENTS HAVE TURNED US ALL INTO ABOMINATIONS!

THEY DID THIS TO OUR WORLD! THEY DID THIS TO US!



WE HAVE ALL LOST LOVED ONES BY OUR OWN HANDS. WE HAVE ALL TURNED ON EACH OTHER, NOT KNOWING HOW TO CONTROL WHAT HAS BECOME OF US.

MISTAKES HAVE BEEN MADE. PEOPLE HAVE DIED. WE HAVE KILLED. SOME OF US HAVE EATEN, YES. BUT THESE DEATHS ARE NOT OUR FAULT.

THE BLOOD, REGARDLESS OF WHAT COLOR IT HAS NOW BECOME, IS ON THEIR HANDS, NOT OURS.



WE CAN REBUILD OUR COUNTRY, BUT NOT UNTIL THEY ARE MADE TO PAY FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. ARE YOU WITH ME?

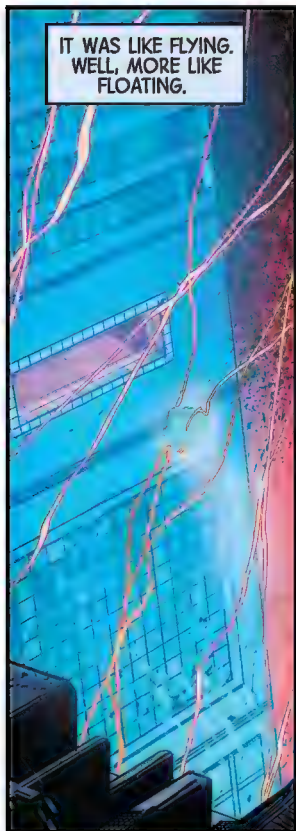


THERE MUST BE JUSTICE.

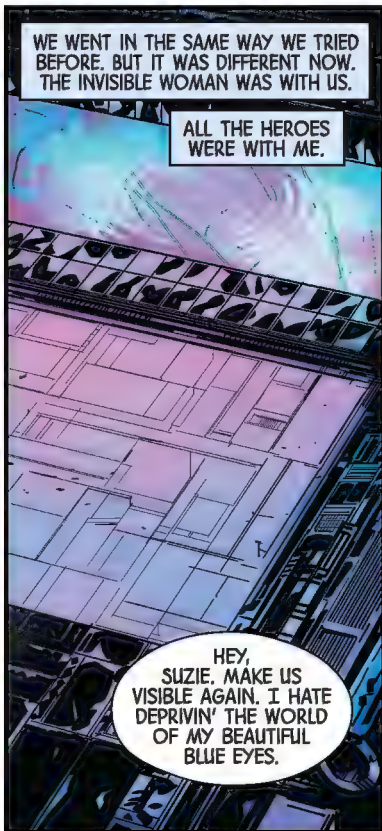
FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO US, TO OUR NEIGHBORS, TO OUR COUNTRY.



MY COUNTRY.



IT WAS LIKE FLYING.
WELL, MORE LIKE
FLOATING.



WE WENT IN THE SAME WAY WE TRIED
BEFORE. BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT NOW.
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN WAS WITH US.

ALL THE HEROES
WERE WITH ME.

HEY,
SUZIE, MAKE US
VISIBLE AGAIN. I HATE
DEPRIVIN' THE WORLD
OF MY BEAUTIFUL
BLUE EYES.



OF
COURSE,
BEN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW I
WAS STILL ABLE TO SEE
WHEN WE WERE ALL INVISIBLE.
NOT SURE I NEED TO KNOW.

HOW
DO YOU
SEE THROUGH
THE RED EYES,
DAREDEVIL?



I
DON'T.

HE SMILED WHEN HE
SPOKE. I THINK THAT
MUST BE WHY HIS
MASK DOESN'T COVER
HIS WHOLE FACE. HE
WANTS PEOPLE TO
SEE HIM SMILE.



I'VE BEEN BLIND
SINCE I WAS YOUR
AGE, DAVID. BUT I HAVE
OTHER ABILITIES.

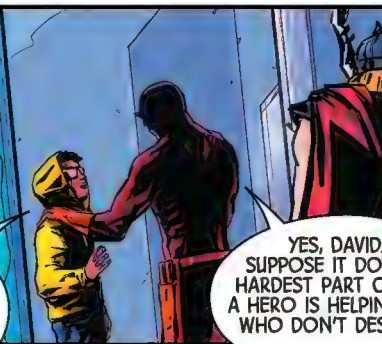
AND I
HAVE HOPE IN THE
DARKEST OF SITUATIONS.
IT'S MY FAITH. IF I CAN
BELIEVE THAT ONE MAN CAN
COME BACK FROM
THE DEAD...



...I CAN ALSO
HOPE THE SAME
FOR THE REST OF
HUMANITY. YOU'RE
HERE TO HELP US
SAVE THEM.



AND
THAT MEANS
SAVING EVEN PEOPLE
LIKE THE ONES WHO
KILLED MY PARENTS?



YES, DAVID. I
SUPPOSE IT DOES. THE
HARDEST PART OF BEING
A HERO IS HELPING THOSE
WHO DON'T DESERVE IT.



WE'RE
ALMOST
THERE.



OH MY GOD.

HI, RED.

I HEARD ABOUT MARY JANE. I'M SORRY.

OH MY GOD.

THEY LOOK AT ME, AND IT'S LIKE THEY'RE SEEING A GHOST, EXCEPT I'M ALIVE.



OH MY STARS AND GARTERS, IT'S TRUE.



HELLO, DAVID. I AM SO PROUD TO MEET YOU AT LAST.

H-H-HELLO, MR. RICHARDS.

PLEASE, CALL ME REED.

OH MY GOD.



I'M VERY IMPRESSED THAT YOU GOT YOURSELF TO NEW YORK ALONE. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT MY FAMILY AROUND ME.

YOU'RE VERY BRAVE.

I...DON'T HAVE A FAMILY ANYMORE.

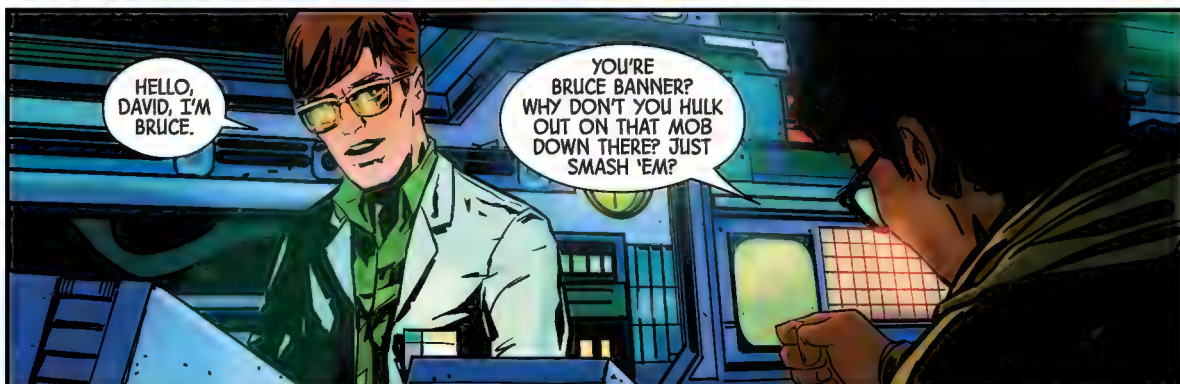
THAT'S WHAT THOR CALLED ME. BUT I'M NOT. I'M NOT BRAVE LIKE SPIDER-MAN OR DAREDEVIL OR CAPTAIN AMERICA.



I'M SO SORRY ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, DAVID. AND I KNOW IT'S NOT THE SAME, BUT YOU HAVE US.

DAVID, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE MAN WHO REBUILDS EVERYTHING HIS OTHER HALF IS KNOWN TO, WELL, SMASH.

REED'S FUNNIER THAN I WOULD HAVE GUESSED. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S A DAD.



HELLO, DAVID, I'M BRUCE.

YOU'RE BRUCE BANNER? WHY DON'T YOU HULK OUT ON THAT MOB DOWN THERE? JUST SMASH 'EM?

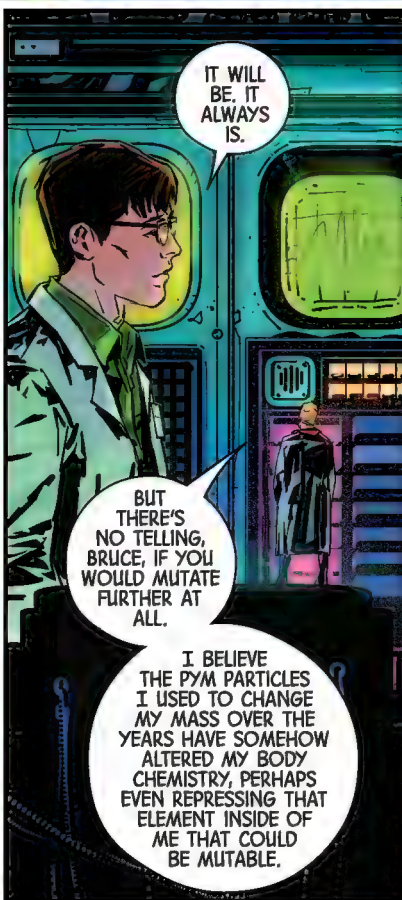


I THINK I'M OF BETTER USE HERE. CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE.

AND I HAVEN'T CHANGED INTO THE HULK SINCE THE PLAGUE HIT.

THE HULK HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FORCE OF IMMEASURABLE DESTRUCTION. I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT FORM IT WOULD TAKE IF I CHANGED NOW, OR WHAT IT WOULD DO.

BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE A BAD THING.



IT WILL BE. IT ALWAYS IS.

BUT THERE'S NO TELLING, BRUCE, IF YOU WOULD MUTATE FURTHER AT ALL.

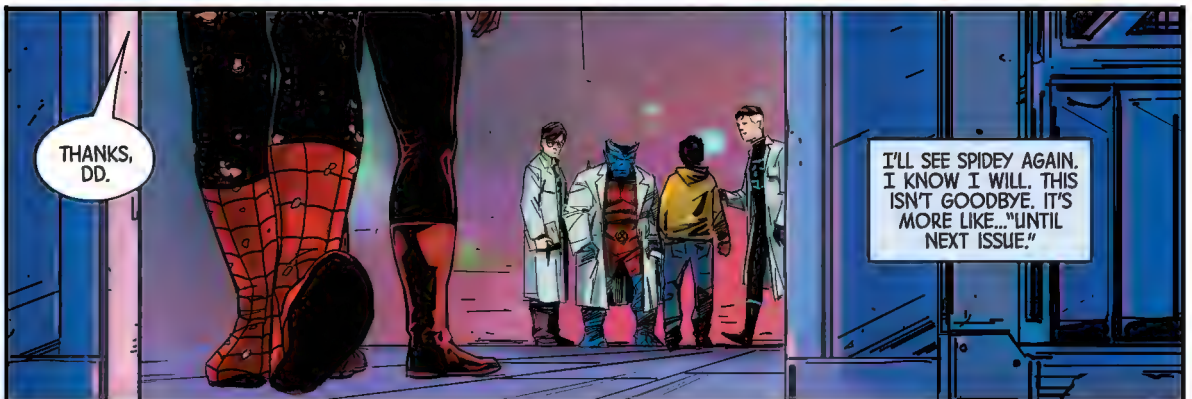
I BELIEVE THE PYM PARTICLES I USED TO CHANGE MY MASS OVER THE YEARS HAVE SOMEHOW ALTERED MY BODY CHEMISTRY, PERHAPS EVEN REPRESSING THAT ELEMENT INSIDE OF ME THAT COULD BE MUTABLE.



THOUGH CLEARLY THE PLAGUE AFFECTED CLINT BARTON, WHO WAS ALSO GOLIATH BEFORE GOING BACK TO HIS HAWKEYE PERSONA.

I CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES, HENRY. ESPECIALLY NOW THAT DAVID IS HERE. IT'S TOO IMPORTANT.

HANK PYM IS ANT-MAN. THE FIRST ANT-MAN. HE WAS AN AVENGER EVEN BEFORE CAP.





AFTER SPIDER-MAN LEAVES, THEY START THEIR TESTS.

LISTEN, HENRY, THERE IS AN ENERGY TO EVERY ORGAN IN THE HUMAN BODY. IF ONE BREAKS DOWN, IT AFFECTS THE OTHERS.

SO IT'S POSSIBLE THAT A DEFECT IN DAVID, AND PERHAPS THOSE OF US THAT HAVEN'T MUTATED FURTHER, IS BLOCKING WHATEVER IS MUTABLE WITHIN HIM.

LET US KNOW IF THIS HURTS, DAVID. IT SHOULDN'T, BUT LET US KNOW.

THANKS, MR. BEAST.



INTERESTING.

AND YOU SAY THAT NOTHING HAPPENED WHEN YOU HAD THE SCABS?

NO, SIR. THE SCABS JUST FELL OFF.



DON'T BE ALARMED, DAVID. I'M GOING TO SIMULTANEOUSLY TAKE YOUR PULSE FROM YOUR NECK, TEMPLE, WRIST, BACK OF YOUR ELBOW AND TOP OF YOUR FOOT.



I WANT TO SEE IF YOUR BLOOD FLOWS AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS, SUGGESTING TWO OR MORE METABOLISMS.



FASCINATING... TOTALLY NORMAL.

COULD I TALK TO THE FALCON WHILE YOU GUYS DO THESE TESTS?

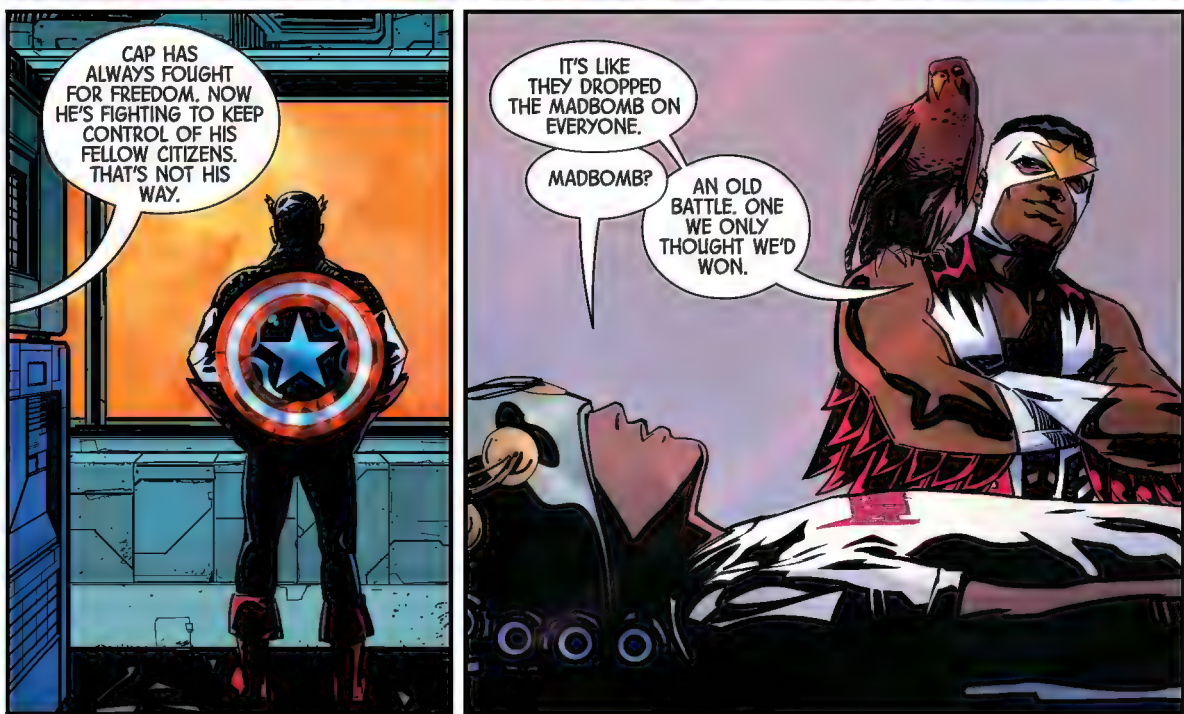
I'LL HAVE BEN GET HIM FOR YOU, DAVID... BEN?



YEAH... YEAH, I HEARD, I'LL GET 'IM.

WISH YA'D FACE THE FACTS, STRETCHO. YA COULDN'T EVEN MAKE LITTLE OL' ME HUMAN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, AN' NOW YER TRYIN' TA CURE THE WHOLE BLAMED WORLD.

NUTHIN'S GONNA CHANGE. MUTANTS ARE THE NEW NORMAL.





WHILE THE FALCON AND I TALK, THE OTHER HEROES CATCH UP ON EACH OTHER'S LIVES.

RIGHT NOW I WISH I HAD THE MUTANT ABILITY TO LISTEN TO THEM ALL.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HERCULES? WHY DIDN'T HE COME BACK WITH YOU?



THE GODS OF THIS WORLD ARE LEAVING OR GOING INTO HIDING.

THEY WON'T BE WORSHIPPED NOW THAT MANKIND HAS FINALLY BECOME WHAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE: GODS THEMSELVES.



MOST OF THE ETERNALS LEFT EARTH SOME TIME AGO. THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OF US LEFT.

I'M THINKING OF PUTTING ON A MASK AND PLAYING THE GAME OF BEING A HERO. THIS PLANET'S GOING TO NEED HEROES, HUMAN OR NOT.



WHY ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT ME, GOLDIE? YOU'RE TALKING TO DANNY, BUT YER LOOKIN' AT ME.

IT'S IKARIS. AND I KEEP AN EYE ON YOU BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE A DEVIANT.



NO RESPECT. I TELL YA, I GET NO RESPECT. IT'S LIKE I CAN'T GET OFF'A YANCY STREET TA SAVE MY LIFE.

I MISS DONALD BLAKE. I MISS BEING HUMAN SOME OF THE TIME. I THINK IT WAS, IN TRUTH, WHAT MADE ME WORTHY TO HOLD MJOLNIR.



IT'S WHAT MAKES US ALL WORTHY, THOR. IT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL TRYING TO HOLD ON TO.



THE AGE
OF MAN IS
OVER.



YOU'RE
REPEATING
YOURSELF,
KRAVEN.

THE DAY OF
THE BEAST HAS
ARRIVED. I DID NOT
UNDERSTAND THIS
BEFORE, BUT I
DO NOW.

SHUT
UP.



I
SHOULD HAVE
KILLED THE
BOY. HE'S AN
ANTIQUE.

THE ONLY
REASON YOU'RE
IN THAT CELL AND
NOT ALREADY A
RUG IN SASQUATCH'S
CABIN UP NORTH IS
BECAUSE THAT
BOY IS STILL
ALIVE.



I DON'T WANT TO KILL
MYSELF ANY LONGER,
CAGE. I WILL GET
OUT, YOU KNOW.

I HEAR
THINGS...JUST
AS I HEARD THE
BOY'S PRAYERS TO
CAPTAIN AMERICA
WHEN HE FIRST
ARRIVED...

WELL, YOU
HAVEN'T HEARD
ME TELL YOU TO
BE QUIET, THAT'S
FOR DAMN
SURE.



IT'S NOT
A MOB YOU
HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT. IT'S A
PACK. IT'S BEING
LED.

HE WANTS
THE POWER TO
CONTROL THIS CITY.
HE WANTS THE
POWER THAT WAS
DENIED HIM WHEN
HE WAS ONLY
HUMAN.

WHO?



HE'LL GET
ME OUT OF
HERE. I KNOW
HE WILL.

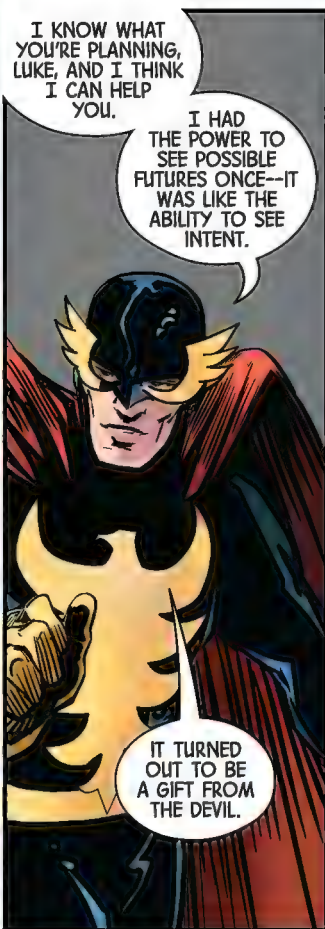
AND IN
THE SAME WAY
WE'LL GET INTO
THE BAXTER BUILDING,
WE'LL GET THROUGH
THAT UNBREAKABLE
SKIN OF
YOURS.

AND
THEN WE WILL
FEAST.



NO, YOU
WILL NOT,
KRAVEN.

NIGHTHAWK?
KYLE, IS THAT
YOU?



I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE PLANNING,
LUKE, AND I THINK
I CAN HELP
YOU.

I HAD
THE POWER TO
SEE POSSIBLE
FUTURES ONCE--IT
WAS LIKE THE
ABILITY TO SEE
INTENT.

IT TURNED
OUT TO BE
A GIFT FROM
THE DEVIL.



I THOUGHT
I WAS CURED OF
IT. BUT THIS "CURSE"
IS COMING BACK.
SLOWLY...IT'S
COMING BACK.

I TALKED
TO JOHNNY
BLAZE ABOUT IT.
HE SAID THAT
THERE IS NO
LASTING CURE AFTER
A DEAL WITH
MEPHISTO IS
MADE.



SO I
THOUGHT THAT
I COULD HELP
YOU RESTORE SOME
LAW AND ORDER
HERE IN THE
CITY.

WOULDN'T
YOU LIKE TO
KNOW WHERE A
CRIME IS GOING
TO BE COMMITTED
BEFORE
IT IS?



I WOULD
INDEED.

Y'KNOW,
NIGHTHAWK'S
A GOOD NAME
FOR A COP. OR
MAYBE EVEN A
DETECTIVE.



THE ONLY
ORDER THAT
WILL COME IS THE
ORDER OF THE
BEAST.



NOTHING.
WE ARE FINDING
NOTHING, REED.

AND I AM
BEGINNING TO
WONDER IF IT IS
ETHICALLY WRONG
TO EVEN SEEK
A CURE.

BEAST?



MAYBE IT'S
ALL MY YEARS
WITH PROFESSOR
XAVIER...

BUT WHAT
IF SOME CALAMITY
IS COMING TO EARTH,
AND NATURE IS SOMEHOW
PREPARING OUR PEOPLE
TO DEAL WITH IT?



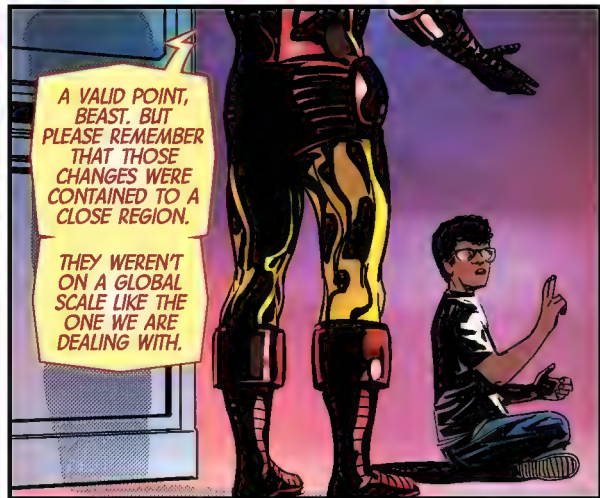
WHAT IF WE
AS A CIVILIZATION
ARE BEING ADAPTED
FOR SURVIVAL?

IF IT'S TRUE,
IT'S DARWIN. MOST
MAJOR ADAPTIONS IN
EVOLUTION HAPPENED
PRIOR TO ENVIRONMENTAL
CHANGE. THEY WERE
PREPARATORY IN NATURE.



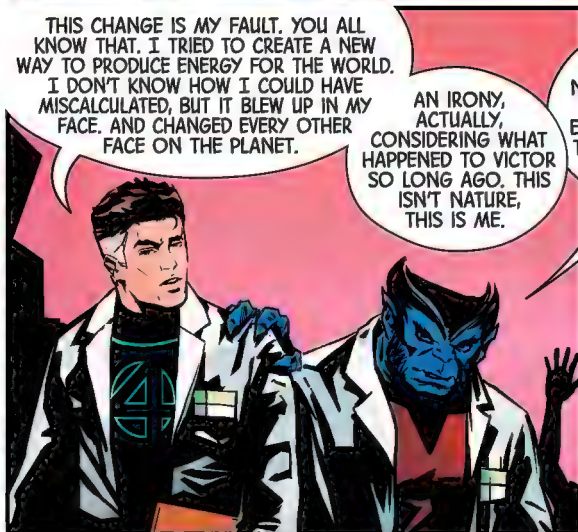
SO ANY
ATTEMPTS TO
HOLD BACK
MUTANTKIND IS A
SELF-DESTRUCTIVE
NOTION.

THE
WILLINGNESS
TO CHANGE IS
THE COURAGE TO
EMBRACE LIFE.
TO FACE THE
FUTURE.



A VALID POINT,
BEAST. BUT
PLEASE REMEMBER
THAT THOSE
CHANGES WERE
CONTAINED TO A
CLOSE REGION.

THEY WEREN'T
ON A GLOBAL
SCALE LIKE THE
ONE WE ARE
DEALING WITH.



THIS CHANGE IS MY FAULT. YOU ALL
KNOW THAT. I TRIED TO CREATE A NEW
WAY TO PRODUCE ENERGY FOR THE WORLD.
I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD HAVE
MISCALCULATED, BUT IT BLEW UP IN MY
FACE. AND CHANGED EVERY OTHER
FACE ON THE PLANET.

AN IRONY,
ACTUALLY,
CONSIDERING WHAT
HAPPENED TO VICTOR
SO LONG AGO. THIS
ISN'T NATURE,
THIS IS ME.



BUT REED,
YOU ARE A PART OF
NATURE, AND PERHAPS
IT USED YOU TO
EMPOWER THE WORLD
TO SAVE ITSELF FROM
WHATEVER'S
COMING.

I ALSO
WENT OVER YOUR
CALCULATIONS... I
DIDN'T SEE ERRORS,
EITHER. MAYBE THERE
IS MORE TO THIS
THAN--

I DON'T
BELIEVE THE
WORLD HAS BEEN
EVOLVED AS YOU DO,
MCCOY. IT'S BEEN
GAMMA-
IRRADIATED.

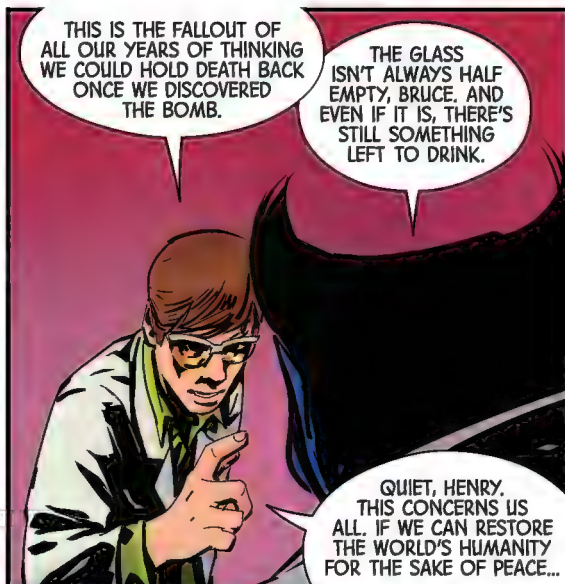
AH--
EXCUSE
ME?



THIS IS NOT JUST ABOUT TRANSFORMATION. IT'S ABOUT DESTRUCTION.

AT LEAST ON A METAPHORIC LEVEL, WE HAVE ALL BECOME THE EMBODIED MEANS OF OUR OWN AND OTHERS' DESTRUCTION.

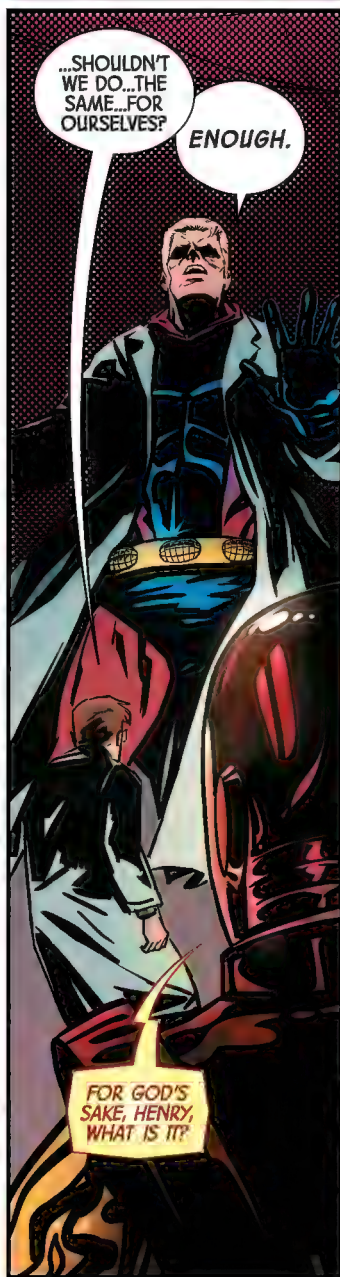
I'LL GET THEIR ATTENTION. THEY ALWAYS IGNORE THE LITTLE GUY, DON'T THEY?



THIS IS THE FALLOUT OF ALL OUR YEARS OF THINKING WE COULD HOLD DEATH BACK ONCE WE DISCOVERED THE BOMB.

THE GLASS ISN'T ALWAYS HALF EMPTY, BRUCE. AND EVEN IF IT IS, THERE'S STILL SOMETHING LEFT TO DRINK.

QUIET, HENRY. THIS CONCERNS US ALL. IF WE CAN RESTORE THE WORLD'S HUMANITY FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE...



...SHOULDN'T WE DO...THE SAME...FOR OURSELVES?

ENOUGH.

FOR GOD'S SAKE, HENRY, WHAT IS IT?



YEP. HANK PYM IS ANT-MAN. BUT HE WAS ALSO THE FIRST GIANT-MAN.

DAVID WANTS TO SPEAK. I THINK WE SHOULD LISTEN TO THE LAST HUMAN BEING FOR ONCE.



WELL, I WAS WONDERING, EVEN IF YOU DO FIND A CURE FOR EVERYONE ELSE...AND EVEN IF YOU CAN'T...COULD YOU GIVE ME SUPER-POWERS?



WHAT DID I SAY?



I DON'T THINK THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE THE ONLY HUMAN BEING LEFT.

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO ALWAYS BE STUCK LOOKING UP.

THIS IS SO NEW YORK.



SIX MILLION LIVING IN THE CITY, AND I KEEP BUMPING INTO PEOPLE I KNOW.

HEY, SPIDEY.

WATCH OUT FOR THE GROCERIES.



SO WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? BEING FORMER MEMBERS OF THE X-MEN AND THE DEFENDERS ISN'T ENOUGH? YOU GUYS HOARDING NOW?

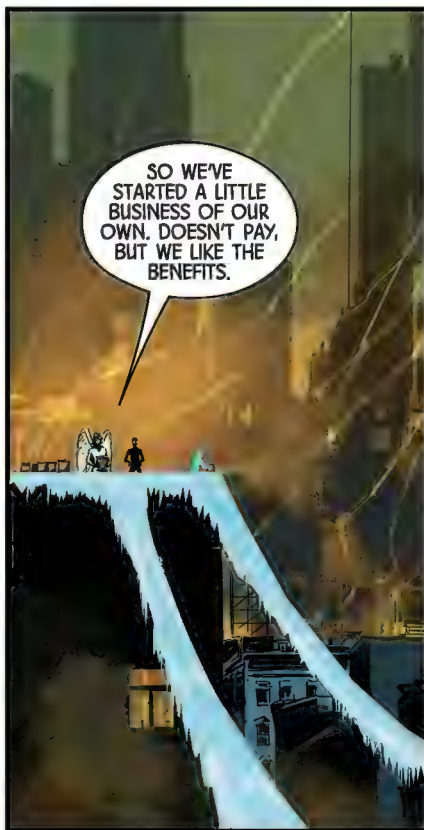


NO ONE EVER REMEMBERS THE CHAMPIONS.

NO, THEY DON'T.



AS YOU KNOW, SHOPPING HAS BECOME TOO DANGEROUS FOR A LOT OF FAMILIES...ESPECIALLY THOSE WHOSE MUTATIONS HAVE PROVEN LESS THAN UNCANNY.



SO WE'VE STARTED A LITTLE BUSINESS OF OUR OWN. DOESN'T PAY, BUT WE LIKE THE BENEFITS.









"FOR YEARS THEY'VE WATCHED US DO AMAZING THINGS TO PROTECT THEM. AND ALL THAT TIME, THEY WANTED TO BE US.

"THEY DON'T WANT TO BE SAVED BY US. THAT'S ONLY BRED RESENTMENT OVER TIME. THEY WANT TO SAVE THEMSELVES. BE ABLE TO DO WHAT WE DO.

"THEY'VE WANTED TO CLIMB WALLS. WANTED TO FLY ABOVE THE CITY.

"WANTED TO SEE OTHER WORLDS. WANTED TO DEFY EVERY NATURAL LAW IMAGINABLE."



THEY'VE BREACHED THE DEFENSES. THEY'RE INSIDE THE BUILDING.

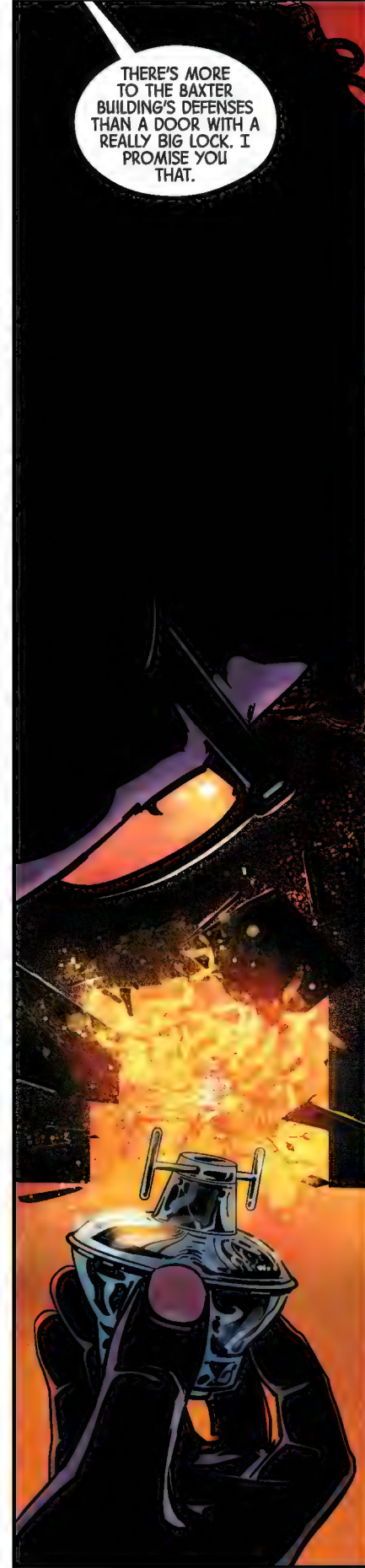
OF COURSE THEY ARE. THEY GOT THEIR WISH.

AND IT'LL BE OUR HEADS ON THEIR WALLS IF WHAT I'M HEARING IS HOW THEY REALLY FEEL.



DON'T WORRY, DAVID. THERE ARE PROTOCOLS IN PLACE FOR JUST SUCH A SITUATION AS THIS.



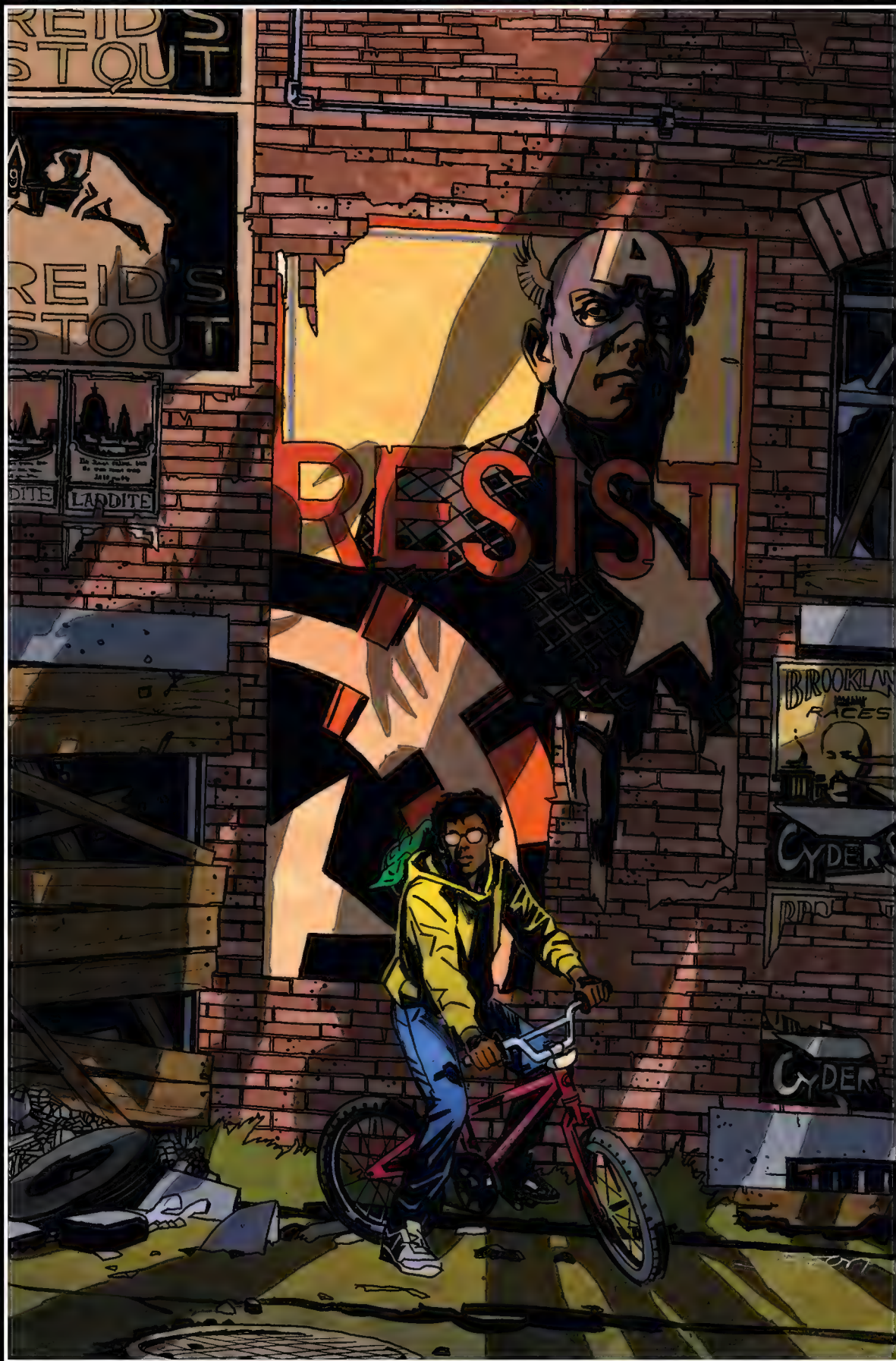


THERE'S MORE
TO THE BAXTER
BUILDING'S DEFENSES
THAN A DOOR WITH A
REALLY BIG LOCK. I
PROMISE YOU
THAT.

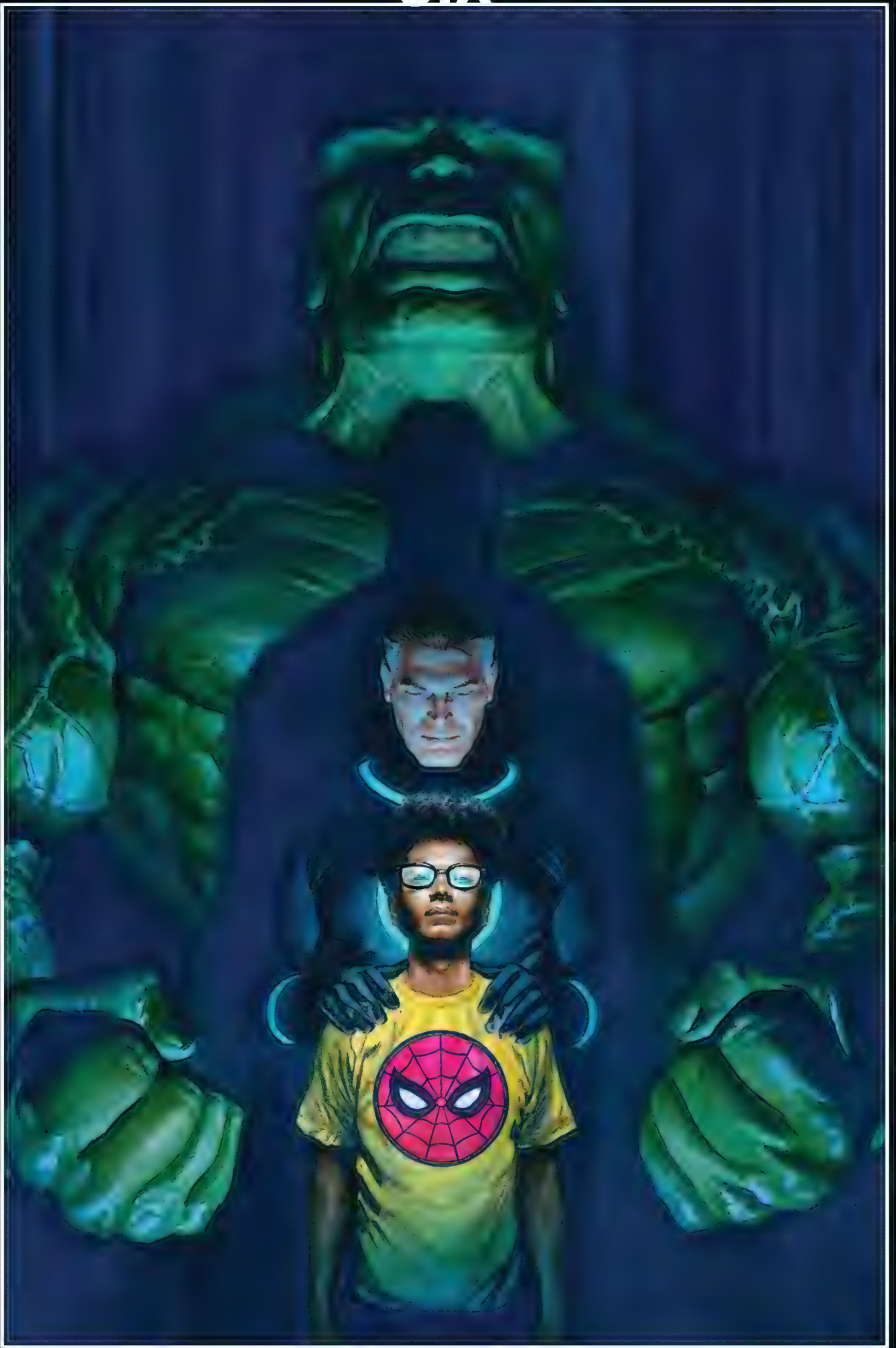


AND THAT'S
A PROMISE
FROM MISTER
FANTASTIC.

WHAT A
REVOLTIN'
DEVELOPMENT.



SIX





NO ONE UNDERSTANDS
THE HULK. OR HIS ANGER.
NOT EVEN BRUCE BANNER,
I DON'T THINK.

SOMETIMES, RAGE IS THE
RIGHT RESPONSE. THE ONLY
RESPONSE. US KIDS GET
THAT, EVEN IF ADULTS DON'T.

SOMETIMES, WHEN ALL
IS ABOUT TO BE LOST--
EVERYTHING A PERSON
CARES ABOUT AND LOVES
AND TREASURES--IT'S
THE ONLY ANSWER.

PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME THAT MAD IS
BAD. TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE IN
TO ANGER. BUT IF PEOPLE I LOVE ARE
GOING TO DIE JUST BECAUSE I KEEP MY
COOL...JUST BECAUSE I CAN HIDE INSIDE
MYSELF, WELL, THAT'S NOT COOL AT ALL.

WE NEEDED A HULK. WE
NEEDED HIM OVER AND
OVER AGAIN. AND WE NEED
HIM NOW MORE THAN EVER.



RIGHT NOW, IT'S NOT JUST THE BAXTER BUILDING THAT'S BEING THREATENED. IT'S THE ENTIRE CITY OF NEW YORK.

IT'S GOING TO BE BAD, LUKE. I CAN SEE IT.

CAN YOU SEE WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE "BAD," KYLE? CAN YOU PUSH YOUR EYES TO SEE PAST WHAT'S IMMEDIATELY ABOUT TO HAPPEN?



AFTER WHATEVER MOMENT YOU FORESEE, THE BEAST SHALL REIGN.

THE MASSES WILL SPEAK HIM INTO POWER.



SOUNDS LIKE POLITICS AS USUAL TO ME.

THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SPEAK PRETTY LOUDLY, THOUGH, ESPECIALLY IF THEY WANT TO BE HEARD OVER US.



I'M SERGEANT CAGE OF THE NYPD.

GO BACK TO YOUR HOMES. ORDER WILL BE RESTORED.



LET'S TRY TO DO THIS WITHOUT HARMING ANYONE TOO MUCH.

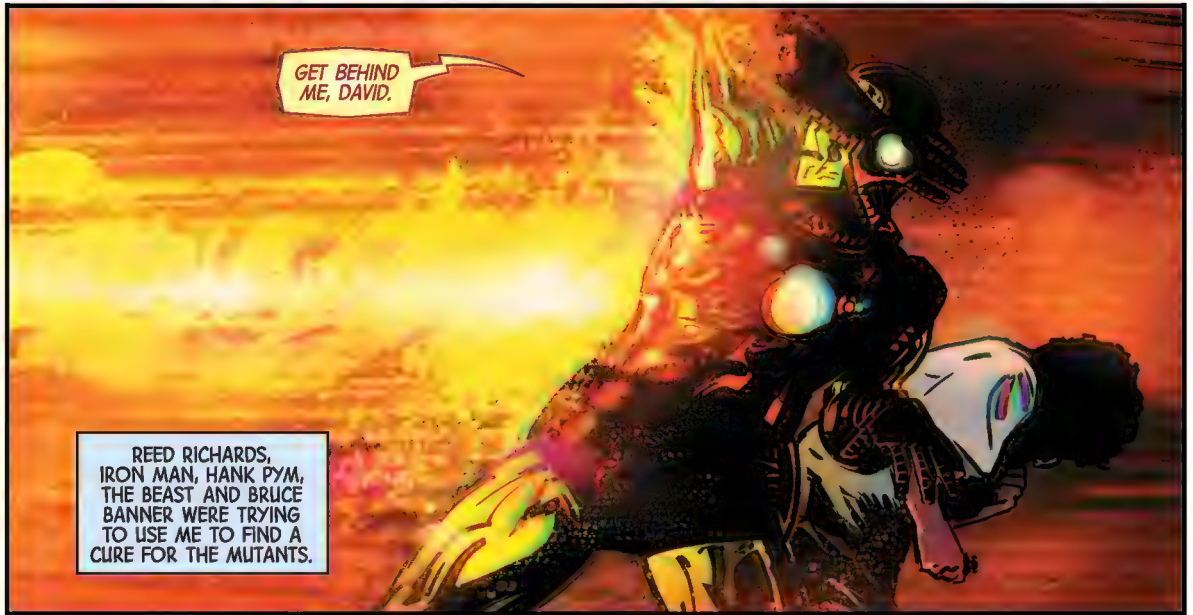
IT'S NOT THEM I'M SEEING BEING HARMED.



THE MUTANTS GOT INTO THE BAXTER BUILDING.

I'M GUESSING THAT EVENTUALLY SOMEONE HAD A POWER THAT EVEN REED RICHARDS COULDN'T DEFEND AGAINST.

MR. FANTASTIC SAYS I SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID.



BUT AT LEAST
I'M SURROUNDED
BY HEROES.

AND THEY'RE
ON MY SIDE.

NO MATTER HOW
MANY TIMES
DAREDEVIL GETS
KNOCKED DOWN,
HE GETS UP AGAIN.

I'LL BET HIS
DAD IS PROUD
OF HIM.

I HAVEN'T EVEN
MET THE HUMAN
TORCH YET, BUT HE'S
FIGHTING FOR ME.

HE CREATES A WALL OF
FIRE. IT ONLY STOPS
SOME OF THE MUTANTS.

BUT THOSE WHO
ARE FIREPROOF
FIND THEMSELVES
FACING THE THING.

YOU
AIN'T SO
TOUGH. YOU
AIN'T SO
TOUGH.

PROFESSOR PYM
BECOMES A GIANT.

I WISH I HAD
TOLD HIM WHAT
HAPPENED TO THE
OTHER GIANT I SAW.

FOR EVERY HERO,
THERE ARE MORE
AND MORE MUTANTS
THEY HAVE TO FACE.

THERE
ARE MORE
COMING IN
ALL THE TIME.
ARE REED'S
DEFENSES
READY?

HAWKEYE DOESN'T
KILL A SINGLE ONE
OF THEM. EVEN IN
THE CHAOS, HE
DOESN'T MISS.

HE'S
ABOUT TO
TRIGGER THEM,
TASHA.

AND CAP IS...
WELL, HE'S CAP.

A MUTANT
STARTS TO FREEZE
REED'S ARM.

I CAN TELL
HE'S IN PAIN.

TRIGGER
PROTOCOL 88
NOW.



THERE'S A PLACE CALLED
THE NEGATIVE ZONE. IT'S
ANOTHER WORLD FILLED
WITH MONSTERS.

REED SAYS IT'S
GOT PLENTY OF
ROOM FOR MORE.



AND HE JUST
OPENED THE
DOOR.



THE THINGS REED
GAVE US KEEP US
FROM BEING PULLED
IN WITH THE OTHERS.



AT LEAST,
NOT BY THE
GRAVITY OF THE
NEGATIVE ZONE.

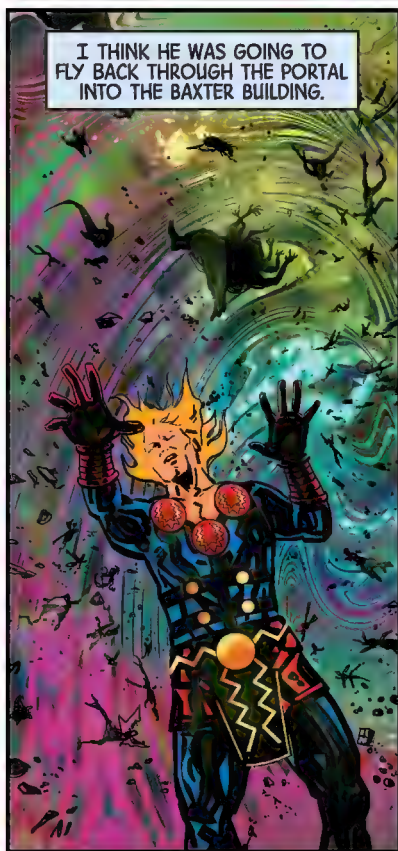




THE MUTANT WAS GOING TO GRAB ME AND PULL ME INTO THE NEGATIVE ZONE.

AND THEN IT WASN'T.

THE ETERNAL THEY CALL IKARIS, A HERO I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW, HE SAVED ME.



I THINK HE WAS GOING TO FLY BACK THROUGH THE PORTAL INTO THE BAXTER BUILDING.



BUT THEN ANOTHER MUTANT GRABBED ME.



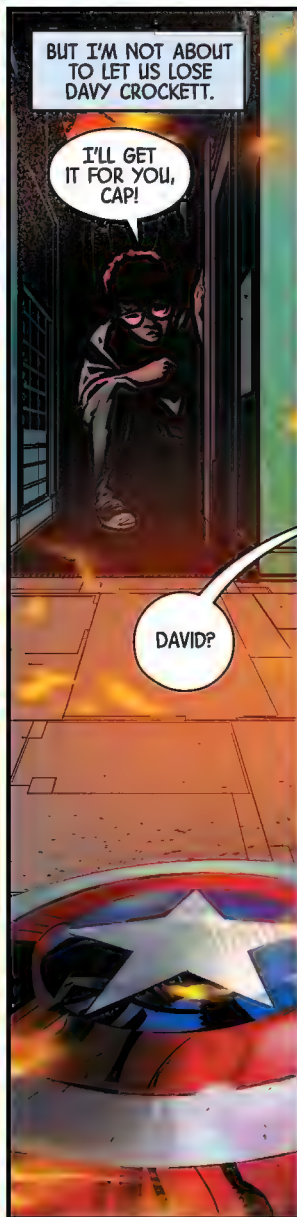
IKARIS HAD A CHOICE. BUT I'M GUESSING IT REALLY WASN'T A CHOICE AT ALL.

HIS EYES GLOWED LIKE A GOD'S WOULD. HE BLASTED THROUGH THE PORTAL.



AND DESTROYED WHATEVER MACHINE REED HAD THAT KEPT THE DOOR TO THE NEGATIVE ZONE OPEN.

AND THEN I COULDN'T SEE IKARIS ANYMORE.



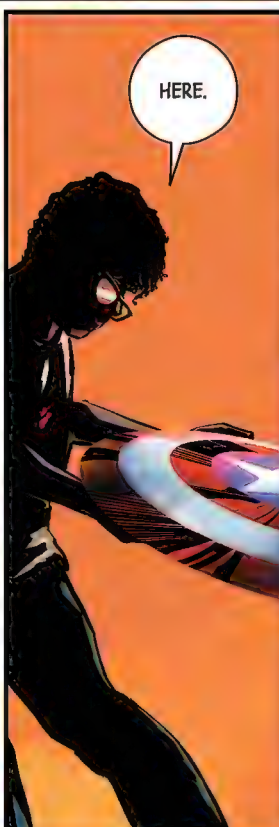


CAP IS IN TROUBLE.
I'M AFRAID THAT
IF I THROW THE
SHIELD, I'LL MISS.

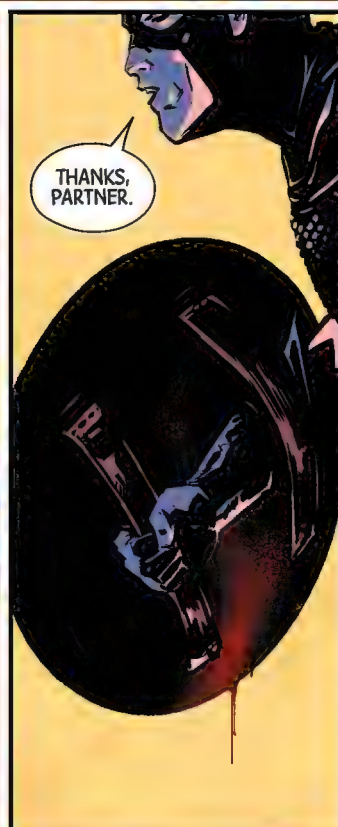


HAVE TO HAND
THE SHIELD TO HIM.

CAP!



HERE.



THANKS,
PARTNER.



...PARTNER...
I'M LIKE THE
FALCON...



ALL I...HEAR...
IS DR. BANNER
SCREAMING.
IT'S SO LOUD.



AND THEN...

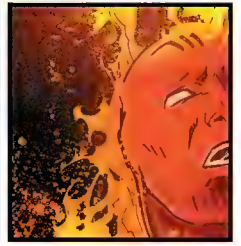
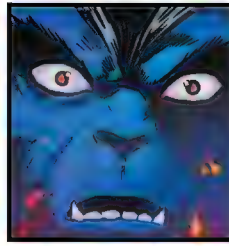


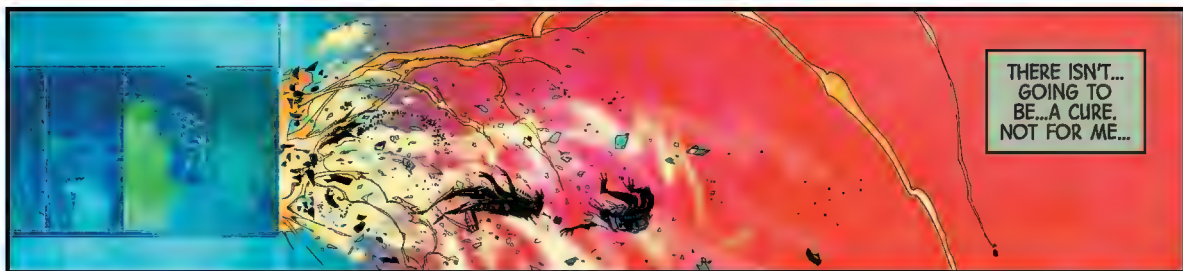
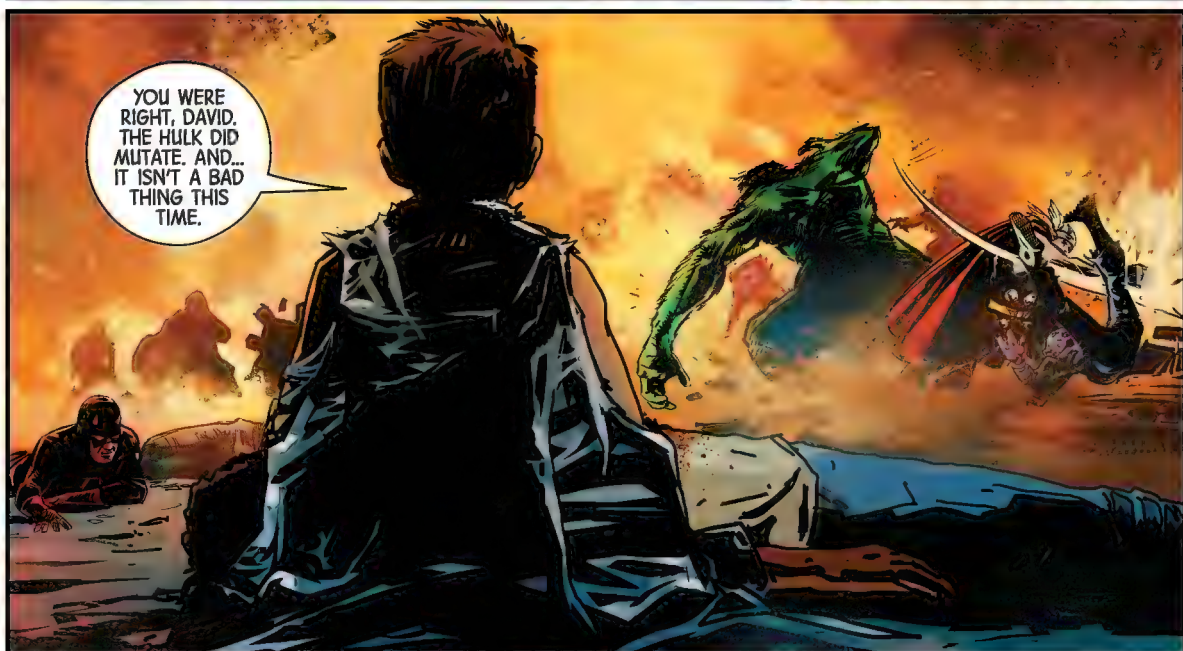
NOW THERE ARE TWO OF
THEM. THE HULK. AND
BRUCE TURNED INTO A KID.
A KID...LIKE ME... GOOD.

HE'LL FINALLY...
UNDERSTAND
WHY THE WORLD...
NEEDS THE HULK.



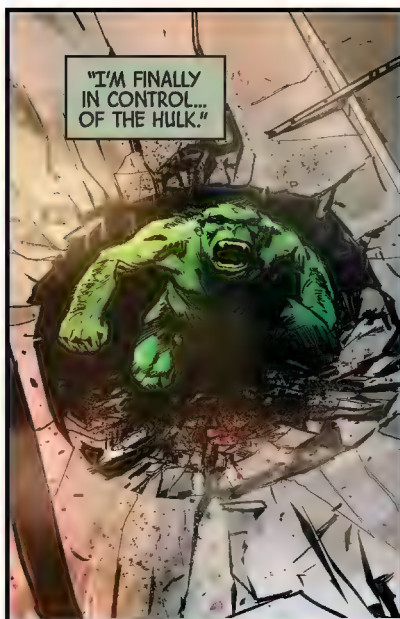
HE'LL FINALLY...







I CAN SEE
THROUGH HIS
EYES NOW,
DAVID...



"I'M FINALLY
IN CONTROL...
OF THE HULK."



THIS IS
HELPFUL.

IT IS.
AND BEFORE YOU
START WONDERING
WHERE YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO PIN A
DEPUTY BADGE ON THE
HULK, HE'S NOT
ALONE.



THE NUMBERS ARE
IN OUR FAVOR. THE
DAY IS OURS.

YOU SEEING
SOMETHING
I'M NOT?

I
AM.



THEY'RE
COMING NOW.
EVEN FORMER
ENEMIES. THEY'RE
ALL COMING
TO HELP.

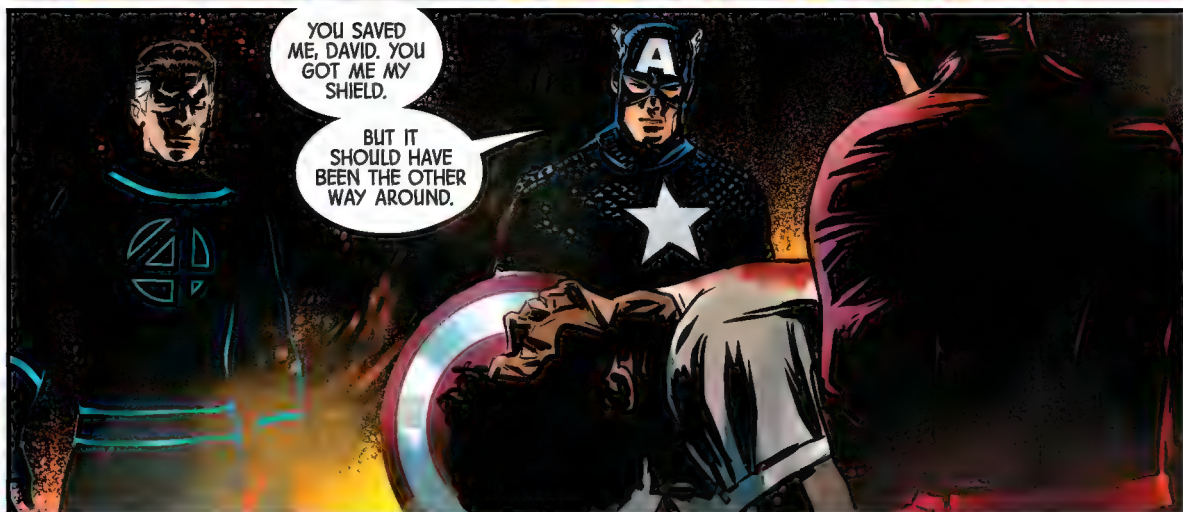
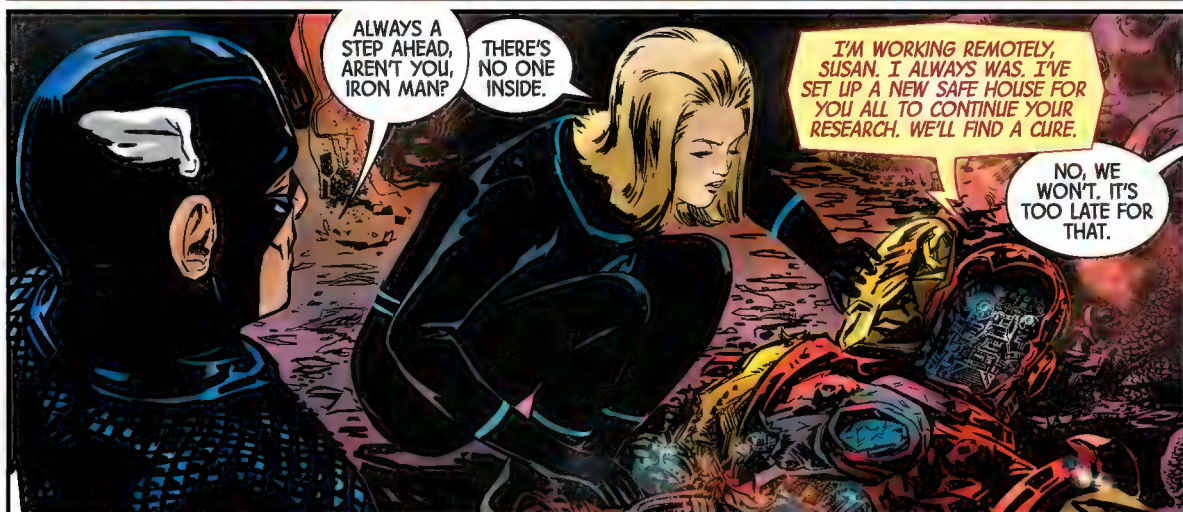
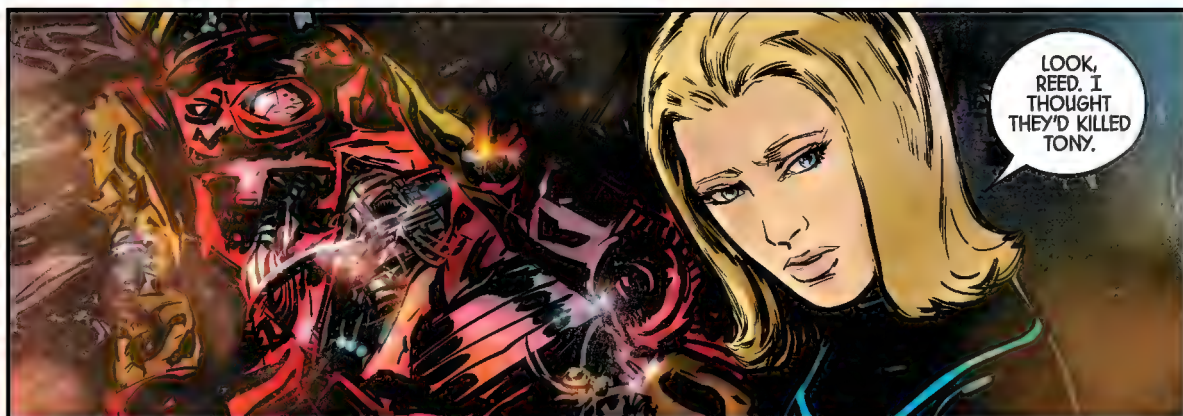
THERE
HAS TO BE
LAW.

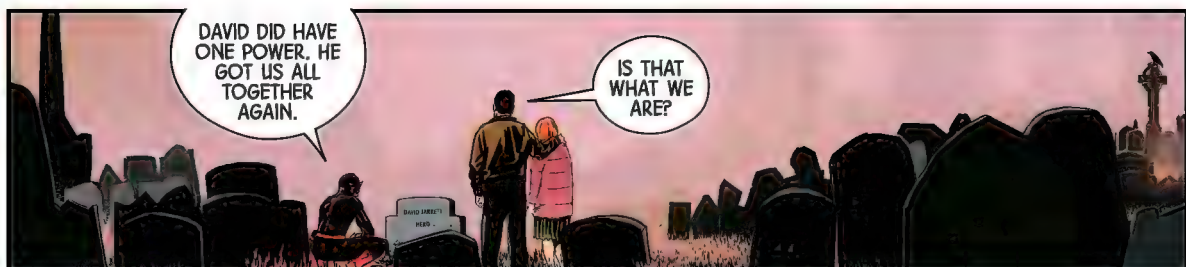
THERE
HAVE TO BE
THOSE WHO
DEFEND
IT.



EVEN FOR
THOSE OF US
WHO DON'T
DESERVE A
SECOND
CHANCE.

I'LL HELP
YOU HOWEVER
I CAN, SERGEANT
CAGE. I'M NORMAN
OSBORN. AND I
WANT TO HELP GET
THIS CITY BACK
ON ITS FEET.





DAVID DID HAVE ONE POWER. HE GOT US ALL TOGETHER AGAIN.

IS THAT WHAT WE ARE?



WE WILL BE, PETER. I'M SURE OF IT.

I'M SORRY I LEFT. DAVID MIGHT HAVE LIVED IF I HAD STAYED.



NO, PETER, DON'T CARRY THIS AS WELL.

HUMANITY WAS ALWAYS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES.



I AM SORRY THOUGH, DAVID. AND I'M GLAD I MET YOU.



WE ALL ARE. YOU REMINDED US ALL THAT THE WORLD STILL NEEDS US. STILL NEEDS ME.

IT STILL NEEDS HEROES WHETHER OUR POWERS ARE SPECIAL ANYMORE OR NOT.



GO AHEAD, MATT. MAY AND I HAVE ONE MORE STOP TO MAKE.



I'M SORRY, MAY, FOR NOT BRINGING YOU HERE MORE OFTEN.



I'M GLAD WE'RE HERE TODAY.



MANY OF US ARE GOING OUR OWN WAYS NOW, TO HELP THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD FIGURE OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION. ORDER WILL COME EVENTUALLY.

FOR A TIME, AT LEAST.



I SEE HANK MCCOY HAS ALREADY TAKEN KRAVEN TO WAKANDA TO BE DEALT WITH THERE.



WHAT ABOUT YOU, DANNY?

YOU WANT TO JOIN KYLE AND ME?



ONLY UNTIL THE GATEWAY TO K'UN-LUN OPENS AGAIN.

YEARS AGO I CHOSE REVENGE OVER PEACE. I NEED TO FINALLY SEE WHAT MY PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ANOTHER WAY TO LIVE.



ANY WORD FROM DAREDEVIL? HOW'S HE DOING?



I THINK DAVID'S DEATH HIT HIM THE WORST. OR MAYBE HE'S USED TO IT. IMAGINE HOW MANY TIMES HE HEARS A HEART STOP BEATING ANY GIVEN DAY.

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE KEEPS FROM GOING CRAZY.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING, KYLE?

I'M...NOT EXACTLY SURE. I'M GETTING A VISION.

SOMETHING I NEED TO FOLLOW.



DAVID DAN
HERO.

DON'T
STRUGGLE,
DAVID. I'LL GET
YOU OUT.

WHY CAN'T I
SEE? WHERE ARE
MY GLASSES?

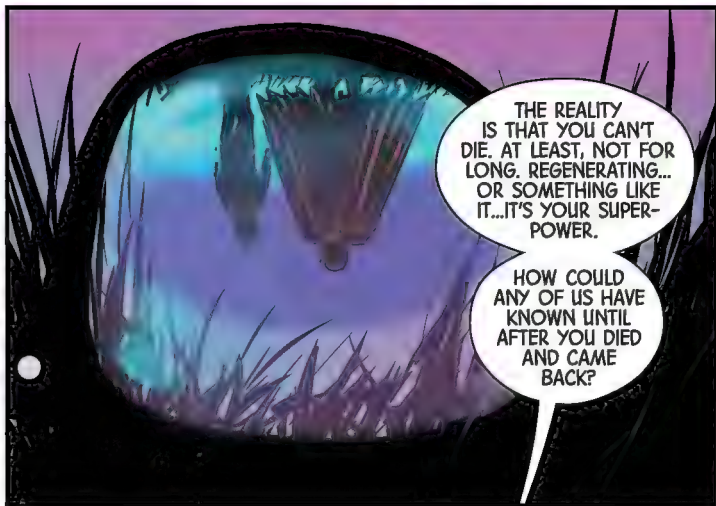


I DIDN'T
DIE?

YOU DID.
AND YOU CAME
BACK. YOU JUST
NEEDED SOMEONE
TO COME AND HELP
YOU DIG YOURSELF
OUT.



I CAN SEE
BETTER NOW.
MY EYES ARE
FINE. WHAT
HAPPENED?



THE REALITY
IS THAT YOU CAN'T
DIE. AT LEAST, NOT FOR
LONG. REGENERATING...
OR SOMETHING LIKE
IT...IT'S YOUR SUPER-
POWER.

HOW COULD
ANY OF US HAVE
KNOWN UNTIL
AFTER YOU DIED
AND CAME
BACK?



SO I
DO HAVE
A SUPER-
POWER?!



"YOU DO, DAVID, BUT YOUR GREATEST POWER MIGHT NOT BE YOUR ABILITY TO COME BACK FROM THE DEAD."



"PEOPLE ARE EVEN MORE AFRAID THAN EVER BEFORE."

"IT WAS BAD ENOUGH WHEN ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WERE MUTANTS."



"IMAGINE HATING AND FEARING EVERY OTHER PERSON ON THE PLANET?"

"AND WHAT ARE WE MOST AFRAID OF?"



"DEATH."

"I SAID THAT COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD MIGHT NOT BE YOUR GREATEST POWER."



IT IS I,
POPCORN AND
PEANUT EATERS,
YOUR HUMBLE
MEGAMARVEL, HERE
TO INTRODUCE YOU
TO THE MOST
UNUSUAL HERO
OF THEM
ALL.

"I HAVE THE ABILITY TO SEE THE
FUTURE SOMETIMES, DAVID. AND
I SEE IT FOR YOU.

"YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW
PEOPLE AGAIN AND AGAIN
AND AGAIN WHAT IT MEANS
TO BE A MAN WITHOUT FEAR.

HEROES DIE.
WE KNOW THAT.
AND NO ONE MORESO
THAN THE MAN, NAY, THE
LEGEND-IN-THE-MAKING
TO WALK THIS STAGE
TODAY.

DID I SAY WALK?
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF
YOUR UMBRELLAS, CULTURE
LOVERS, BECAUSE THAT'S
NOT THUNDER YOU'RE HEARING.



I GIVE YOU
DAREDEVIL.

THE
MULTI-
MORTAL
MAN.

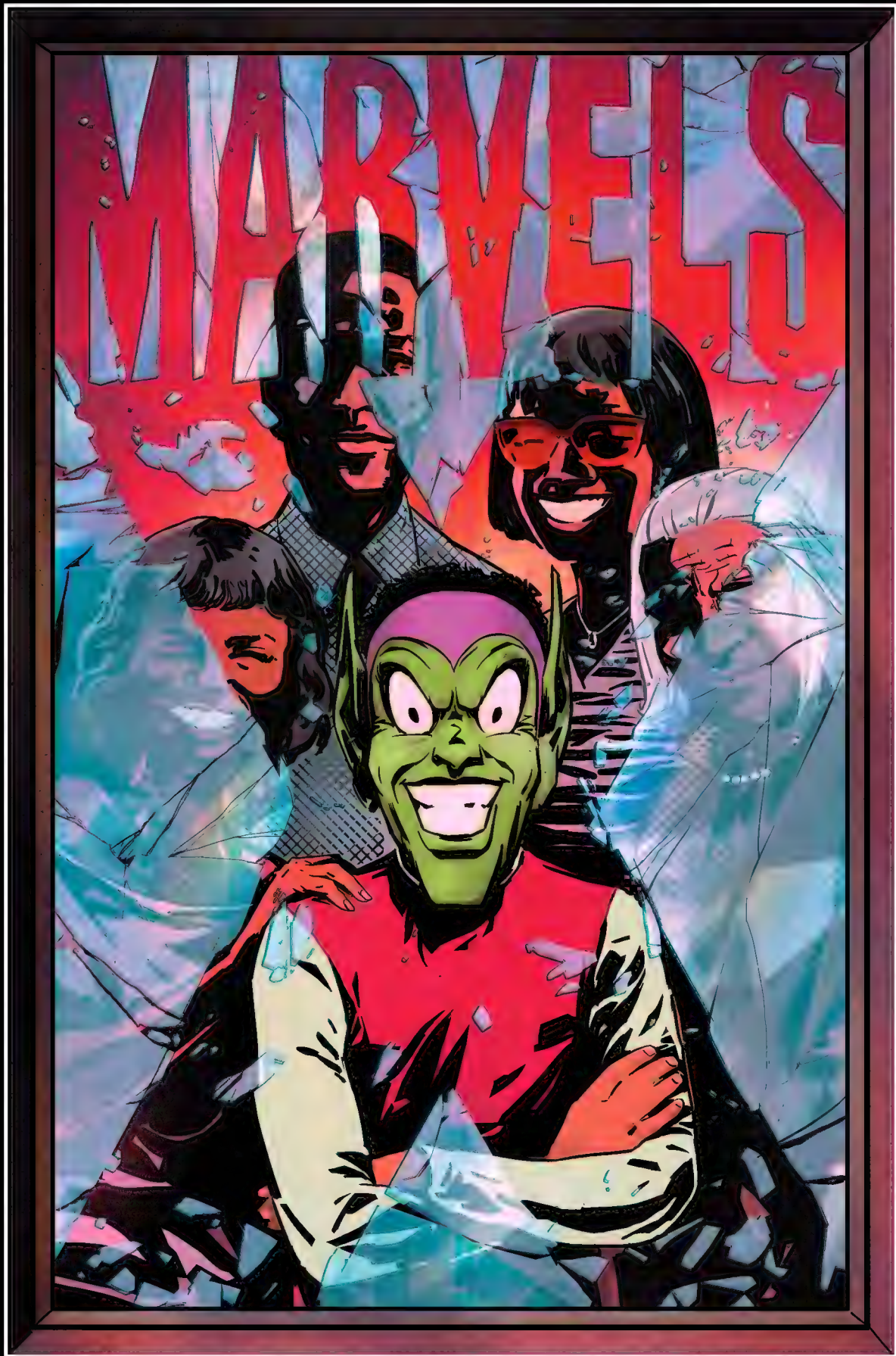
STAB HIM.
BURN HIM.
BLEND HIM. SLICE
AND DICE HIM LIKE
SUSHI. BUT HOLD
ON TO YOUR
WASABI, BECAUSE
IT MATTERS
NOT.

HE TOOK
THE NAME OF
ONE OF THIS
CITY'S GREATEST
HEROES.

AND
LIKE THOSE
HEROES, HE
KEEPS COMING
BACK, AGAIN
AND
AGAIN.

DON'T THEY
ALWAYS.





#1 VARIANT BY WELL-BEE



#2 VARIANT BY WELL-BEE



#3 VARIANT BY WELL-BEE



#6 VARIANT BY WELL-BEE



#1 VARIANT BY GREG HORN



#4 VARIANT BY WELL-BEE



#5 VARIANT BY WELL-BEE



#1 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT BY STEVE DITKO & EDGAR DELGADO

MARVELS X:
BEHIND THE SCENES
BY ALEX ROSS



DAVID



ISSUE 1, PAGE 14
April's glowing red
halo-winged figure



ISSUE 1, PAGE 6
Grandma in the cocoon with skin spots

JOHN

with flame design
arm tattoos

5'10"



David
5'3"



Tattoos are red,
gradating up to
yellow with a
dark blue-green
outline like a
regular tattoo

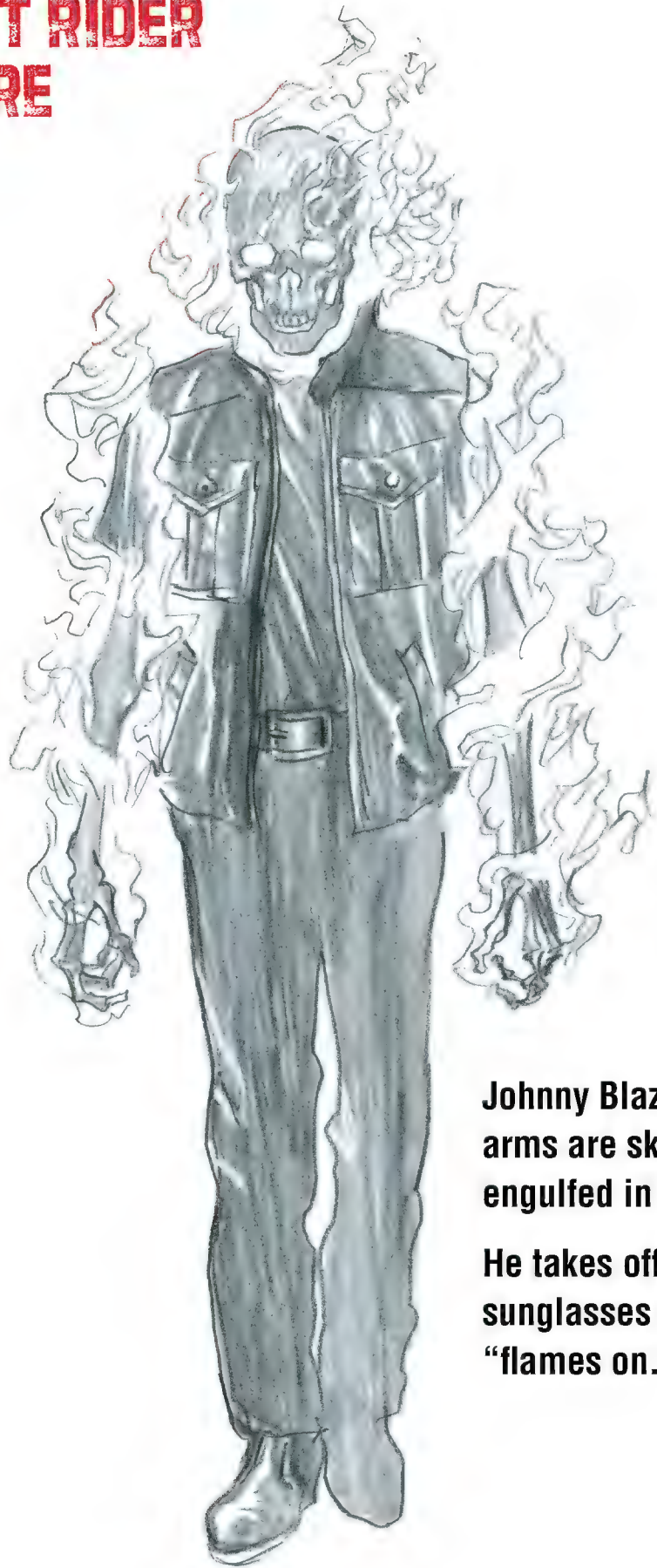


DAREDEVIL

Daredevil is still red, but
the overall series look
is to add heavy blacks to
each classic hero.

Please play up the black
areas more strongly.

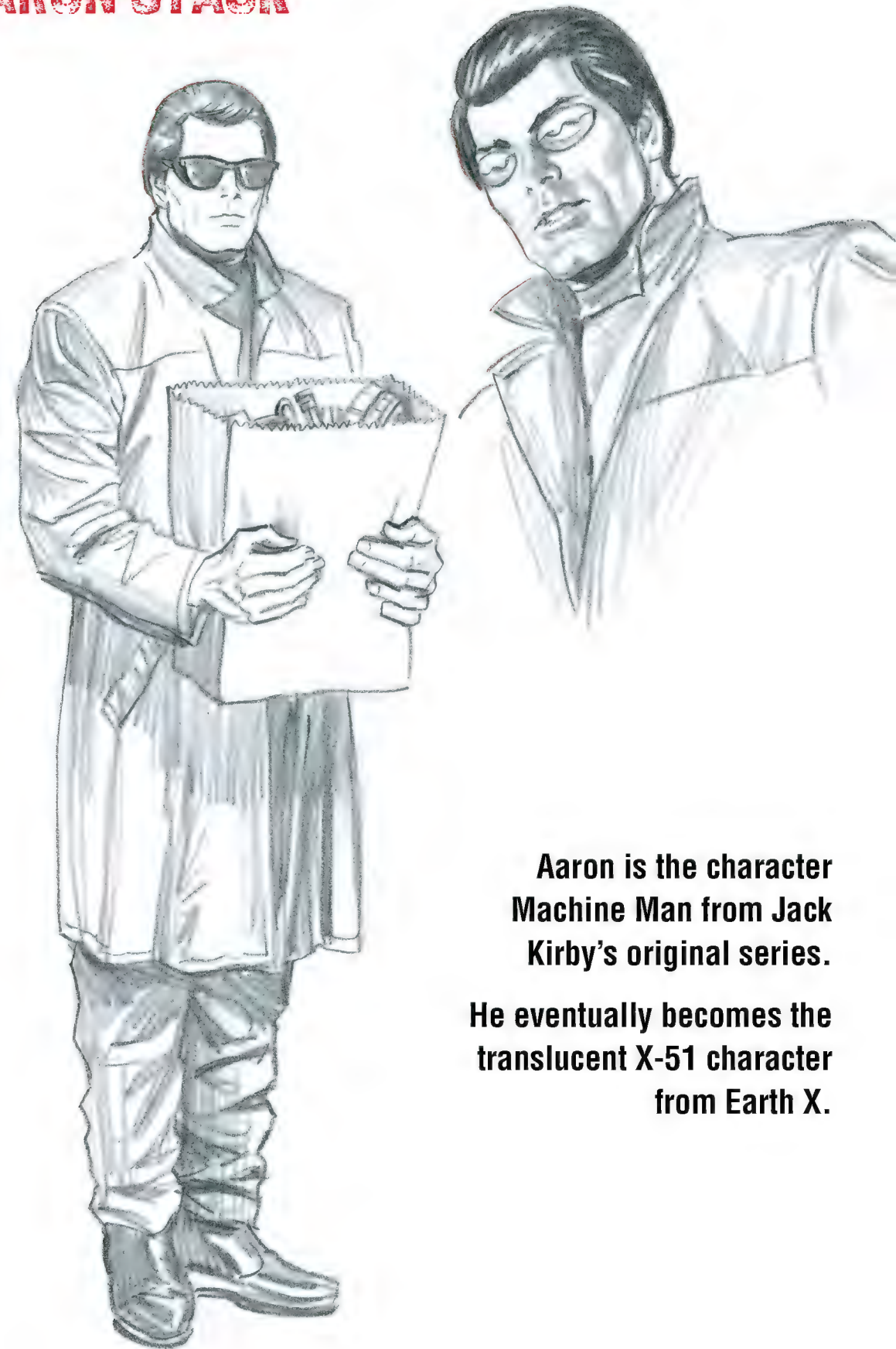
GHOST RIDER ON FIRE



Johnny Blaze's bare arms are skeletal and engulfed in flame.

He takes off his hat and sunglasses before he "flames on."

AARON STACK



Aaron is the character Machine Man from Jack Kirby's original series.

He eventually becomes the translucent X-51 character from Earth X.

SPIDER-MAN

Nose line

Mouth line

I've done extra head turns of Spidey to focus on the style of web placement I'd like to keep consistent.

MAY

May has a Black Widow T-shirt.

PETER UNMASKED

Light gray at temples.
Peter is in his mid- to late 30s.

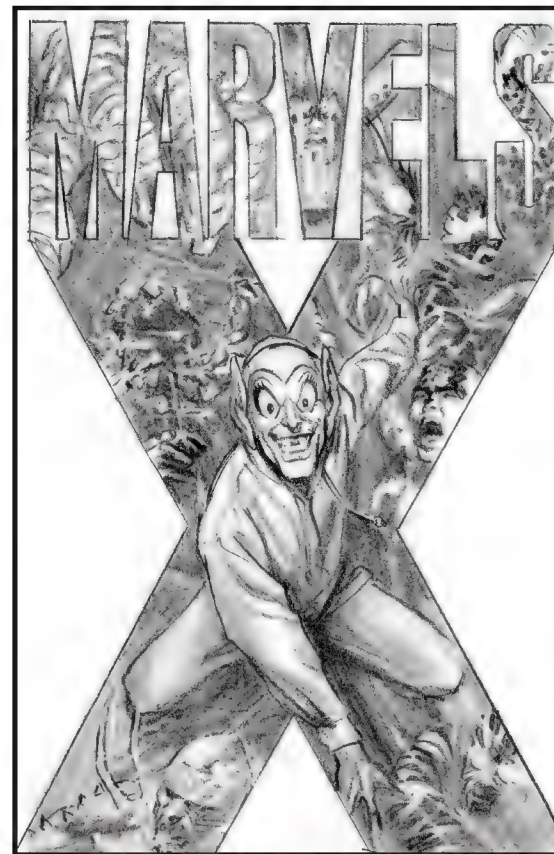


KRAVEN

His head is like a full lion's in shape and size.

He is slightly larger than a normal man.

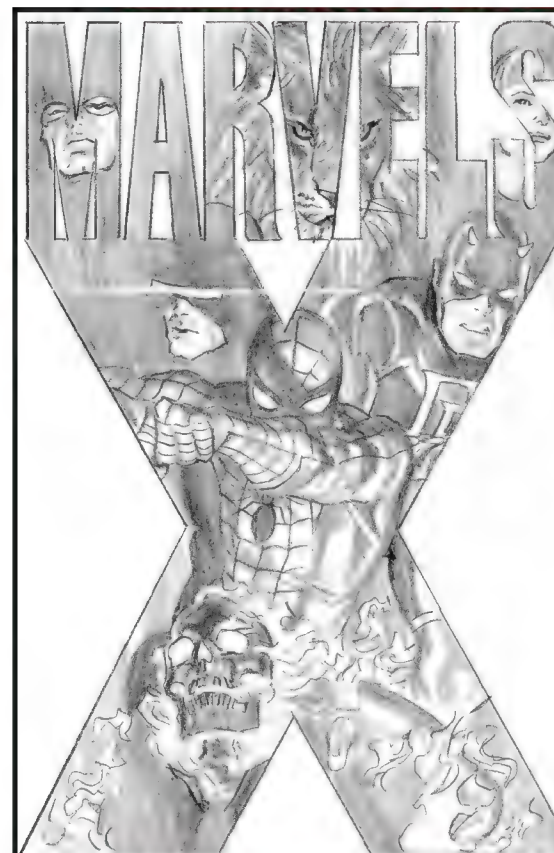
He wears a black vest and leggings.



MARVELS X #1 COVER SKETCH



MARVELS X #1 MARKER COVER SKETCH

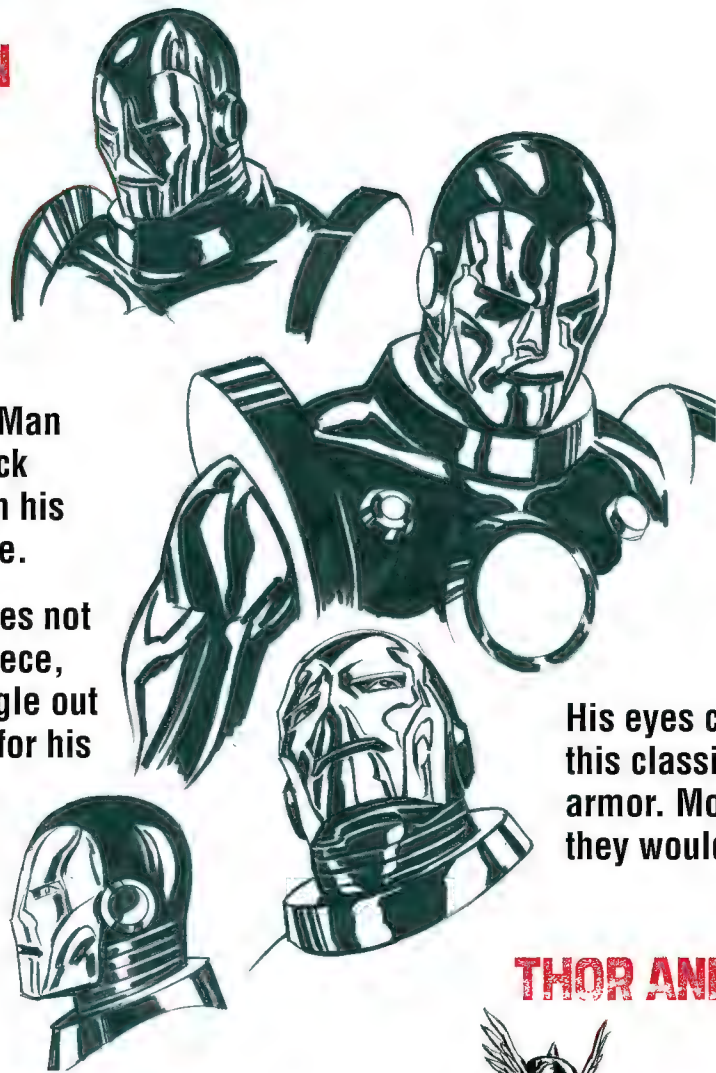


MARVELS X #2 COVER SKETCH



MARVELS X #3 COVER SKETCH

IRON MAN



Detail of Iron Man with extra black placements on his chrome texture.

His helmet does not have a nosepiece, but it does angle out to have room for his nose to fit.

His eyes can be seen in this classic version of the armor. Most of the time, they would be in shadow.

THOR AND IRON MAN



Classic costumes with heavy black accents in the rendering.

HERCULES

LUKE CAGE

THE THING

INVISIBLE WOMAN



HAWKEYE

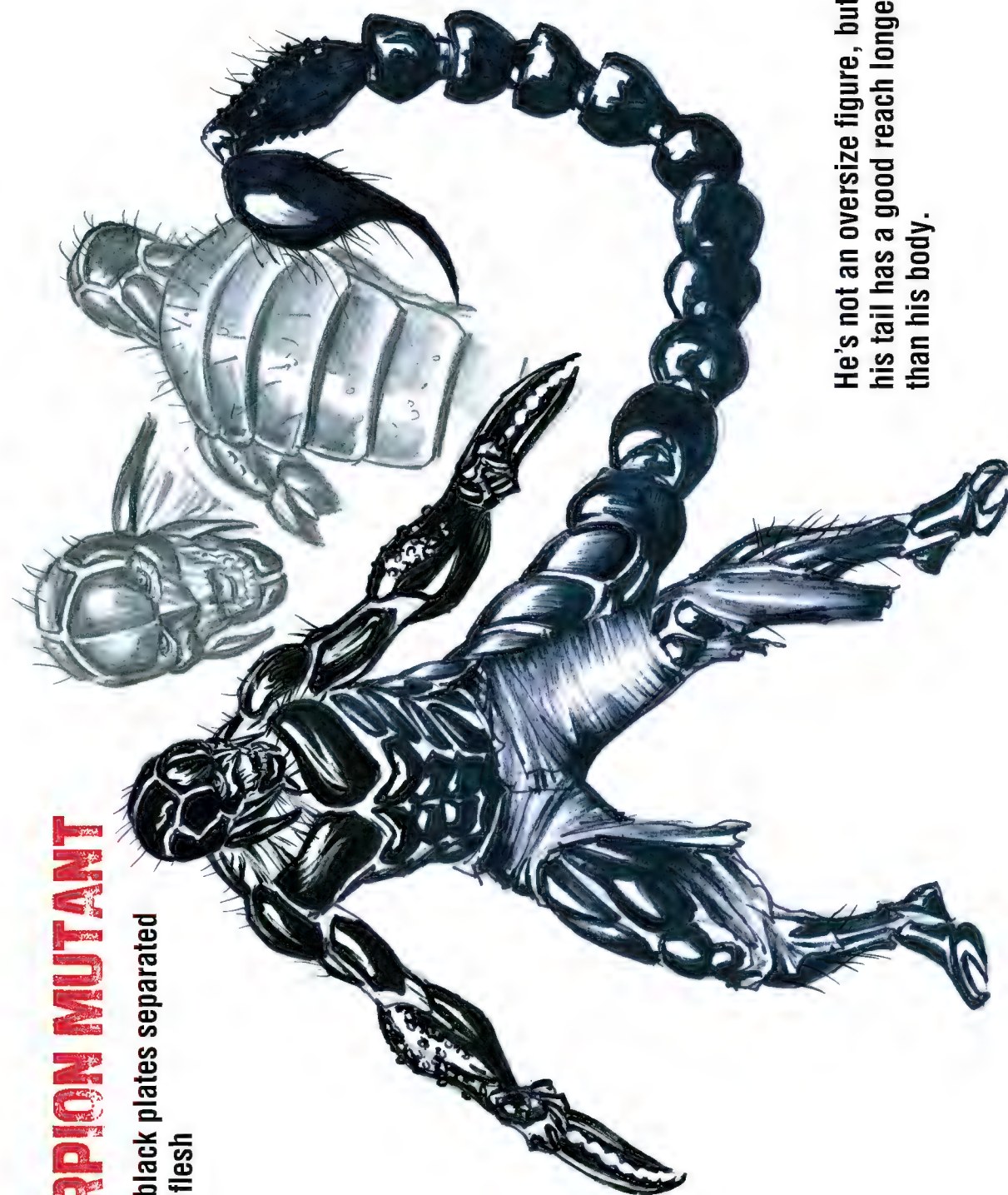
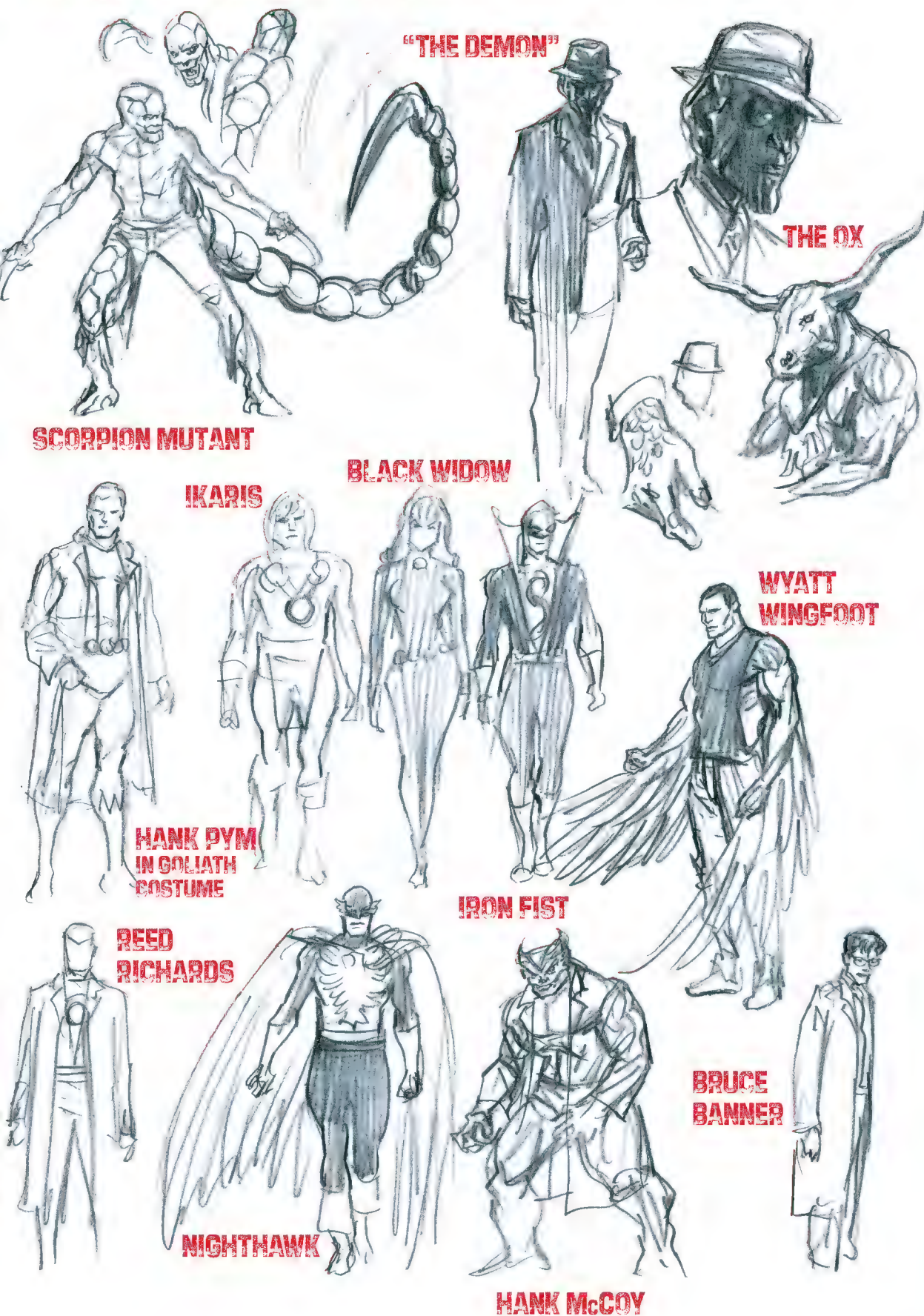
VISION

SCARLET WITCH

SGT. CAGE



EARLY SKETCHES



THE SCORPION MUTANT

Glossy black plates separated
by pink flesh

He's not an oversize figure, but
his tail has a good reach longer
than his body.

IKARIS

6'2"

BLACK WIDOW

5'8"

NIGHTHAWK

5'11"

IRON FIST

5'11"



Ikaris
should look
like shiny
chrome.

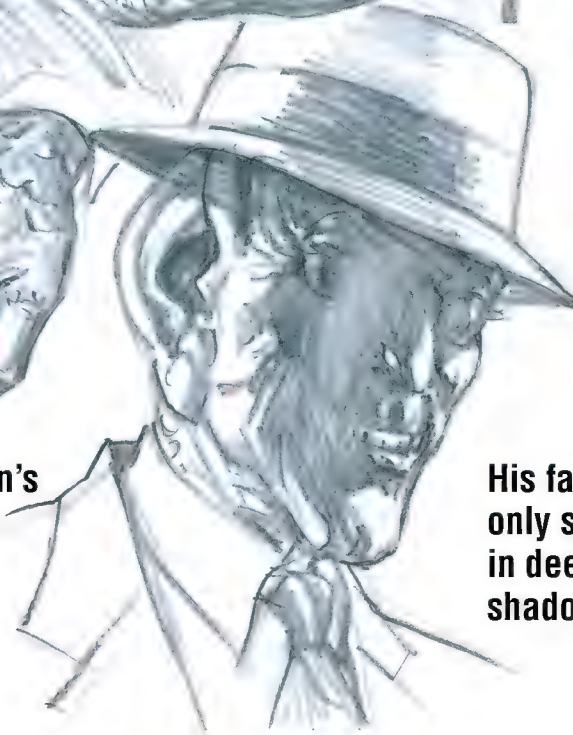
THE OX

7'

The Ox's
horns are
shorter at
first, and his
clothes are
torn still.



The Demon's
hands are
scaly.



The hint of
green is not
overstated.

His suit
is gray.



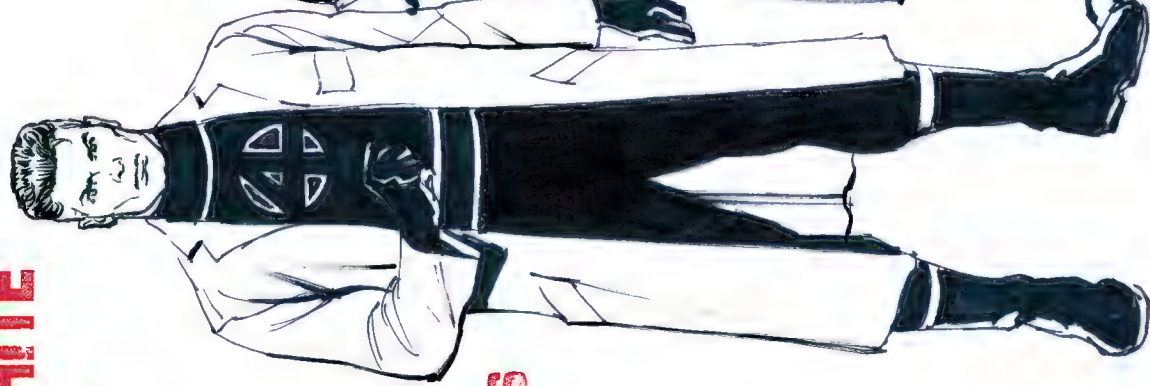
His face is
only seen
in deep
shadow.

"THE DEMON"

THE WHITE COATS

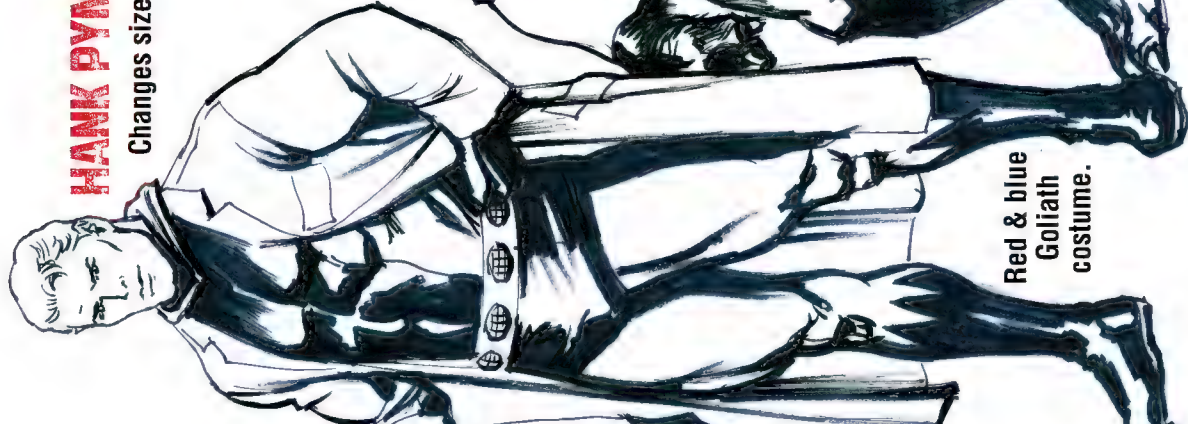
REED RICHARDS

6'1"



HANK PYM

Changes size



Red & blue Goliath costume.

HANK MCCOY

5'11"

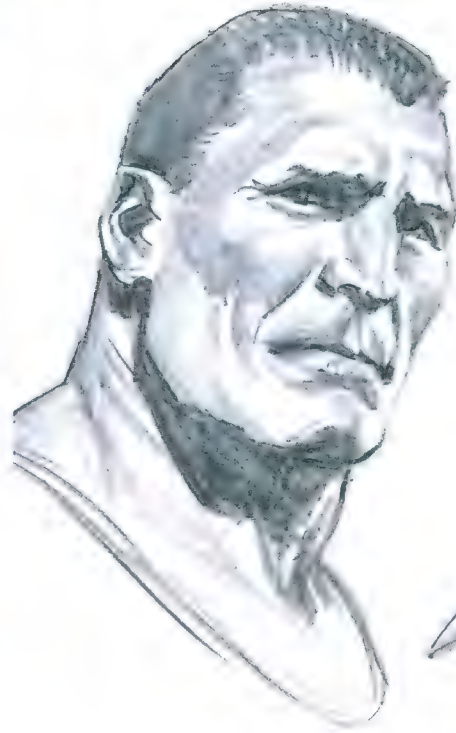
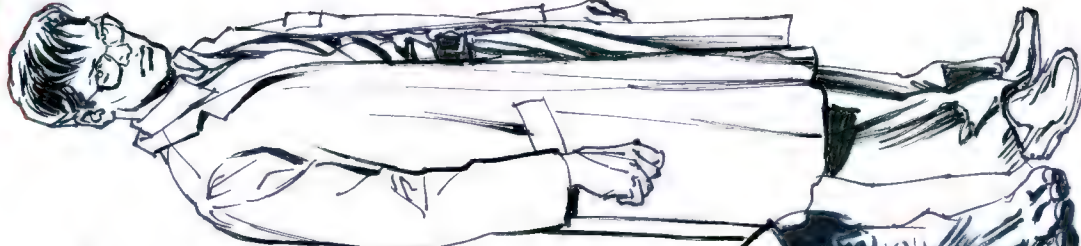
Add white streak in hair.



Hank is wearing a red one-piece under the coat.

BRUCE BANNER

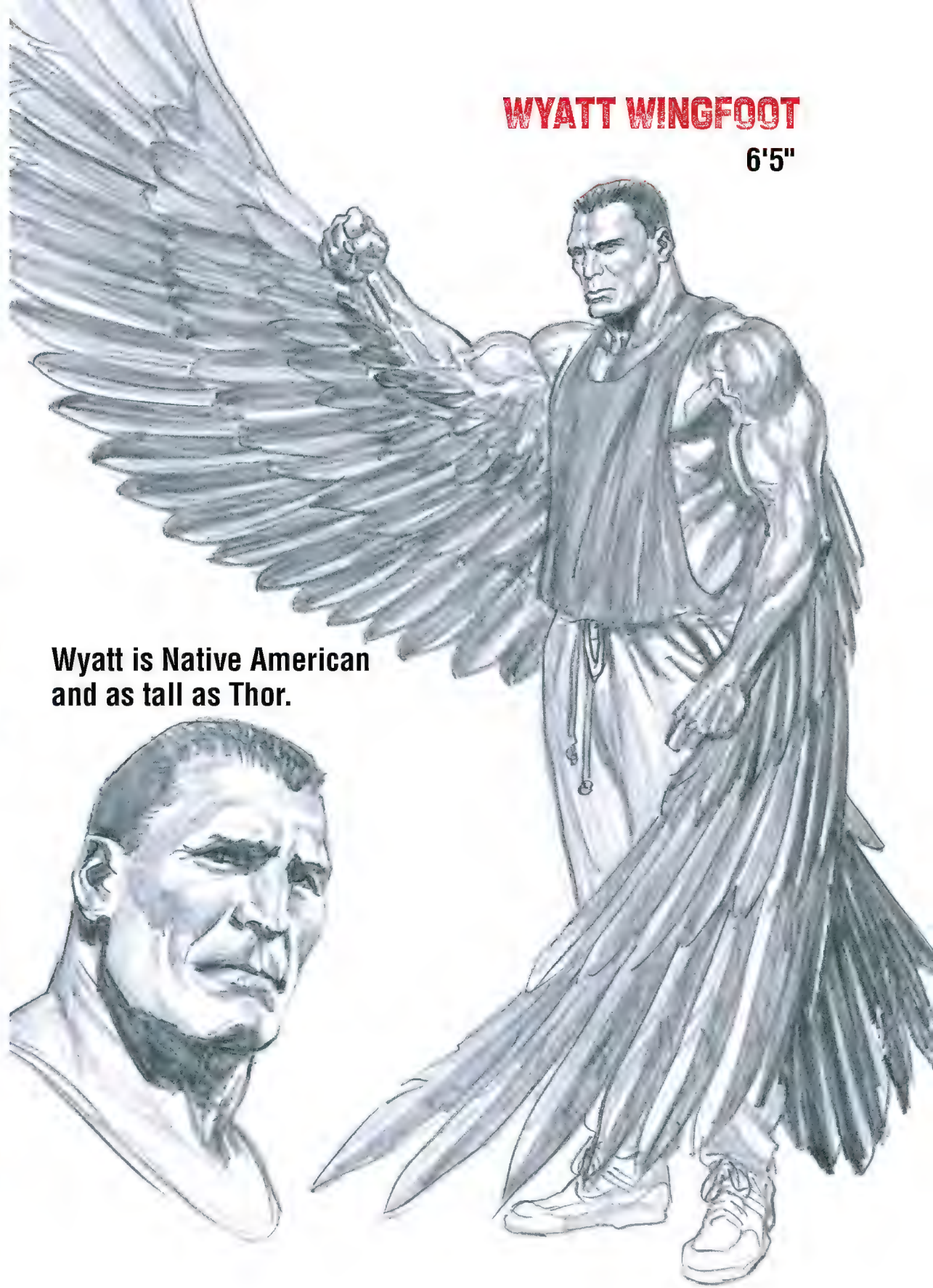
5'8"



Wyatt is Native American and as tall as Thor.

WYATT WINGFOOT

6'5"



Wearing pure
white and black.

ANGEL
6'



Highlights
are only on
his gloves
and boots.

ICEMAN
5'8"



The belt
buckles of
the X symbol
are gold.

CAP AND FALCON



Same classic looks with heavy blacks.

CYCLOPS

He has a red X on a solid black suit.

Gold belt buckle

Leather gloves



Gloss-black visor with red eye beam.



He's only on a TV screen for his cameo in the series, but this is the costume version I'd like to feature. (It's one I did from twenty years ago that went unused.)

A few of the other classic characters may receive new costume designs.

HULK AND BANNER TRANSFORMATION



HULK AND BANNER

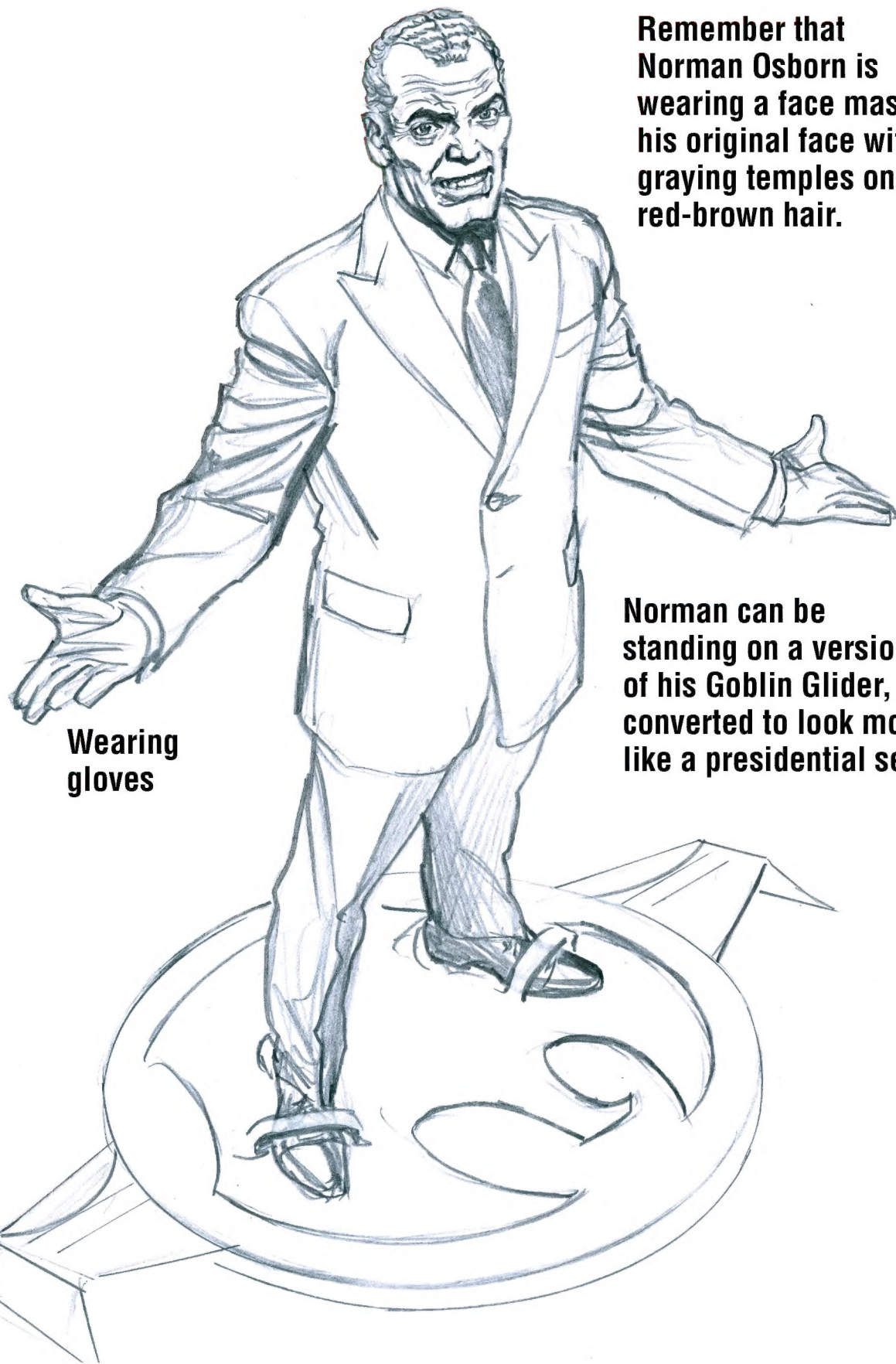


Reed turning his head
should not stretch his
features too much.

The torn-up Iron Man suit
has a lot of empty space
inside of it, but there are
some camera eyes and a
microphone at the back end.

NORMAN OSBORN BEFORE THE CROWD

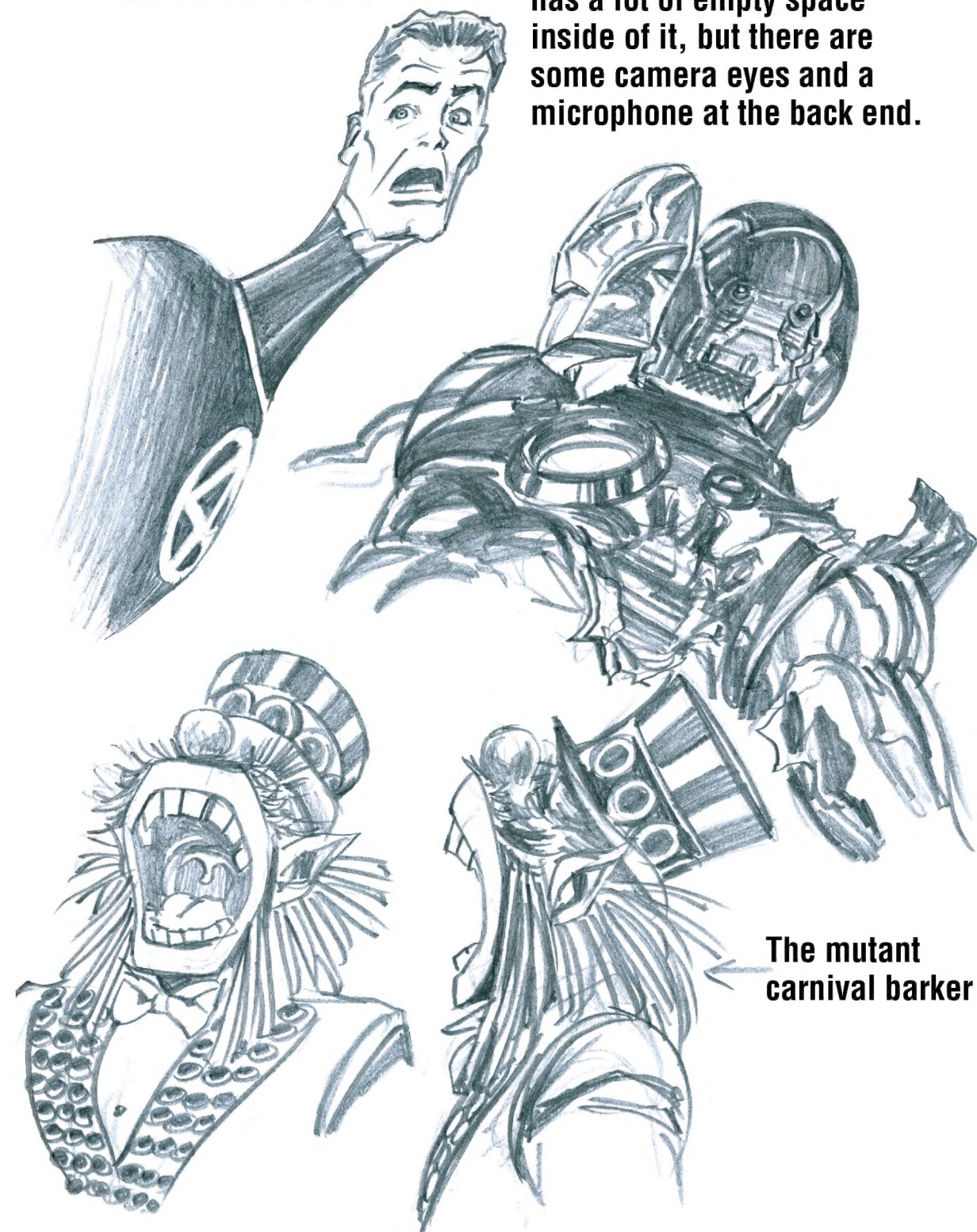
Remember that
Norman Osborn is
wearing a face mask of
his original face with
graying temples on his
red-brown hair.



Wearing
gloves

Norman can be
standing on a version
of his Goblin Glider,
converted to look more
like a presidential seal.

The mutant
carnival barker



PETER AND MAY AT DAVID'S GRAVE



MUTANTS
BY WELL-BEE



"A moving, human story that has me hooked for more, with incredible visuals to boot."

- Multiversity Comics

THE PREQUEL TO THE EARTH UNIVERSE PARADISE TRILOGY!

David has a problem. He's the last normal human on Earth. He lives in a world of monsters that would love to devour him. And these monsters are his former neighbors — mutating, like the rest of the world, into something strange and frightening and new. David has one hope: to get to New York, where Captain America and the rest of the heroes are. But the big city doesn't bring the safety he'd hoped it would. And the heroes don't know how to cope with a world that's changing all around them. No matter what Spider-Man or Daredevil or even Doctor Strange do to protect him, they can't save David from what is hunting him!

Collecting *Martels X* #1-6 — by Alex Ross, Jim Krueger and Well-Bee.

